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Indonesia Calls for Renewed North-South Dialogue

BK2809091991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0714 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] New York, Sept 28 (ANTARA)—Indonesia Friday reminded the world on the importance of the reactivation of the North-South dialogue for the balance of economic growth towards a lasting world peace.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] here, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the reactivation of the dialogue was very urgent as elements of the uncertain world economic development tended to emerge.

He cited as examples the increasing protectionism, increasing economic imbalance, obstacles hampering relations between industrialised and developing nations, dramatic economic changes in Central and Eastern Europe and the setting up new economic groups among developed countries.

All of these facts demanded new international consensus and commitment to strengthen the existing cooperations in order to boost economic growth and development in the developing countries.

"The economic progress in the North (developed nations) will be impossible without economic growth in the South (developing countries) as the two sides are closely related and interdepedent," he stressed.

Minister Alatas also said that the "new world order" must be managed so as to serve the interests of all nations "large and small, strong and weak."

"If we are to build a viable new world order, then its architecture and management must be comprehensively conceived and not be made dependent on the military and economic might of individual countries or groups of countries," he said. He was echoing the views of several Third World delegations alarmed at what they see as the growing muscle-flexing of the United States, now seen as the only real superpower in the world following the decline of Soviet power.

Speaking on the current environmental damage, Minister Alatas said that it was the common responsibility of all nations to deal with and it should not become a source of conflict between the North and the South. Minister Alatas also said that the development pattern in the developed nations which had become the main source of environmental damage in various parts of the world.

Concerning Indonesia's role, Alatas said that his country was fully aware on its special responsibility to be "the guard" of its extensive tropical forests.

Alatas also addressed the contentious theme of human rights and the UN role's in promoting them.

He made a distinction between civil and political rights on the one hand and economic, social and cultural rights on the other. "Exclusive emphasis on one category over another cannot be justified," he said.

While agreeing with the UN view that the principle of non- intereference should not be used as a pretext to violate human rights, he said: "Maximum caution needs to be exercised lest the defense of human rights becomes a platform for encroaching on the essential jurisdiction of states and eroding their sovereignty." He also said the way was now clear for sealing a Cambodian settlement in Paris late next month.

"At last we now can see the light at the end of the tunnel and this time, it is not the light of an on-rushing train," he said. "The way is open for adoption and signature" in late October at the Paris conference which Indonesia and France co-chair, he said. Alatas, an unofficial candidate to succeed UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, praised the UN chief's "wisdom, dedication,and consummate skill."

The reforms he has instituted and the many proposals he has made on the restructuring of the role and functioning of the United Nations system provide us with a visionary and at the same time practicable blueprint for dynamic adaptation of this world body to the requisites of a rapidly changing world," he added. Perez de Cuellar will step down as UN chief at the end of the year.

ASEAN Free Trade Zone Time Frame Criticized

BK3009004591 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Sep 91 p A3

[Text] Although ASEAN diplomats in Bangkok have said their nations support Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun's initiative on forming a free trade zone among the six ASEAN member countries, they called the proposed 10-year time-frame to achieve the goal too tight.

ASEAN economic ministers are scheduled to meet in Kuala Lumpur on Oct 6 and 7 to discuss the proposal in detail after the initial positive response to the Thai-proposed free trade zone, according to Thai government sources.

Finance Minister Suthi Singsane led a team of senior officials on a trip to sell the proposal to other ASEAN countries two weeks ago after completion of a study on the "Anan Initiative" on ASEAN econonomic integration.

According to ASEAN diplomats in Bangkok, the concept was greeted positively by Brunei, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia nd Singapore although Jakarta and Manila, whose economic development lags behind that of other members, expressed some reservations on the time-frame.

An Indonesian Embassy official, speaking on condition of anonymity, agreed that the proposal would strengthen ASEAN efforts to enhance economic cooperation. But he said Indonesia would find the time-frame "a bit difficult to achieve".

The source suggested that the deadline be extended to 20 years so that less developed countries in the group such as Indonesia and the Philippines, hampered by huge external debts and industries in their infancy, can cope with the changes brought about by closer integration.

"We at least have the same idea about how to achieve it (the Thai proposal)," the source said.

Moreover, Indonesia will start the second phase of industrialization under its 25-year development plan in April next year, by which time the ASEAN free trade zone, if endorsed by ASEAN heads of state during their summit meeting in Singapore early next year, would be implemented. During that period, the source said Indonesia would like to minimize external factors hindering its economic development.

The Thai proposal calls for ASEAN to accelerate economic cooperation to create an attractive market and investment opportunities for local and foreign investors by dismantling tariff and non-tariff barriers among the group's members.

According to a Thai source, the changing business and investment environment in the world, where economies of scale are the name of the game, will erode ASEAN products' cost competitiveness in the near future as member countries' individual markets are too small to attract large investment.

The emerging trade blocs in Europe and North America could pose a threat to ASEAN's power in international markets, he said. Unless ASEAN strengthens cooperation to expand its internal markets, it stands to lose ground to less developed countries which are striving to achieve high economic growth, the source added.

Moreover, ASEAN has committed itself to forging closer economic ties since the group's first summit meeting in Bali in 1976 but regional politics have superseded economic priorities, the source noted.

Now that the Cambodian conflict is nearing a settlement, ASEAN members should focus on sorting out their economic problems together, he said.

In response to Indonesia' request, he said the Thai proposal suggested that a step-by-step approach be adopted to avoid any potential adverse impact.

According to Anan's initiative, groups of potential products will be identified for liberalization. Under the plan, a common import tariff would apply to each item, meaning that it would be subject to an equal import tax rate when entering any ASEAN country.

The Indonesian official, meanwhile, noted that the approach was similar to his nation's Common Effective Preferential Tariff (CEPT) proposal, which calls for a gradual harmonization of tariff rates in ASEAN to cut down on customs red tape ASEAN exporters face when selling their products to follow member countries.

The current tax preference system within ASEAN known as the Preferential Tariff Arrangement (PTA) has been criticized for being ineffective in promoting exports among member countries, although all products under PTA coverage are updated and expanded annually.

Thai commerce officials believe that despite the PTA, ASEAN taxes on similar products differ greatly, discouraging trade within the group.

Japan

Defense Review Hinted Following U.S. Arms Cuts

OW3009135291 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu hinted Monday that Japan will review its defense power following the Saturday proposal on nuclear arms cuts by U.S. President George Bush.

Kaifu made the hint in reply to questions from two opposition parliamentarians—Social Democratic Party (SDP) member Tetsu Ueda and Komeito member Natsuo Yamaguchi—at an ad hoc committee on international peace cooperation.

Kaifu said, "The threat to Japan has been changing. The government will consider Japanese defensive strength in accordance with the changes."

The prime minister said Japan will carefully watch how Bush's proposal on arms cuts will affect Japan's security system, adding the country will not continue to build up its defense capability if the proposal has a good influence on Japan's defense system.

Bush has proposed the elimination of land and sea-based short- range nuclear arms and deep cuts in strategic nuclear arsenals by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Defense Agency Chief Yukihiko Ikeda also referred to Bush's arms cut proposal, saying Japan may review the fiscal 1991-1995 defense spending program in 1993 if international military situations favor Japanese defense.

The Defense Agency has said it may review the five-year defense spending program in 1993 when it approved the program last December.

The program beginning April this year provides 22.75 trillion yen to Japan's defense buildup.

On the UN peacekeeping forces, Foreign Ministry UN Bureau Chief Minoru Tanba said the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) will give humanitarian aid, including water supplies, to residents in areas of conflict even if ceasefires are broken by warring factions.

Tanba made the remark in reply to a question from Ueda in connection with the 1964 operations of the UN peacekeeping forces in Cyprus. The forces provided food and water supplies to residents even after a ceasefire was broken in Cyprus at that time.

A bill, allowing the dispatch of the SDF to the UN peacekeeping forces, has been submitted to the Diet after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and two opposition parties—Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party—agreed that Japan would pull the SDF out of the peacekeeping forces if ceasefires are broken.

Hashimoto Hints at Separate Talks With Soviets

OW0110051291 Tokyo KYODO in English 0326 GMT 01 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Tuesday that leading industrial countries and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) may deal separately with the Soviet Union and each of its republics on the issue of Western assistance to them.

Asked about a news report that the IMF has decided to deal equally with the Soviet Federal Government and the republics in aid talks, Hashimoto said he would not be surprised if the IMF takes such a position.

"It would be understandable if the IMF acted on the assumption that there are problems that should be discussed with the Union and those that should be handled with the republics," he said at a press conference after a regular cabinet meeting.

But he said he does not know whether the IMF is considering dealing with all the republics equally. While stressing that there could be differences in the stance of the IMF and leading western countries, Hashimoto said Japan and other members of the Group of Seven industrialized nations may also deal separately with the union and the republics on the assistance issue.

"The prescription for the union and those for each of the republics could be different," he said.

Official Says G-7 'Split' on Soviet Debt Issue

OW0110034091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0206 GMT 01 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—The Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial countries are split on the issue of giving the Soviet Union a moratorium on repayment of part of its debts to the G-7 governments, a top official at the Finance Ministry [MOF] said Tuesday.

The official, who refused to be identified further, admitted the G-7 nations are considering the step as part of emergency assistance to Moscow.

"There is a wide divergence in both the amounts and the contents of the loans the G-7 countries have with the Soviet Union," the official said.

The burden a debt moratorium would impose on the creditor governments vary accordingly, he said.

The positions of the G-7 countries on the issue are still wide apart, with no signs of a united front emerging, he said.

Concern is growing among the G-7 nations over the possibility that the Soviet Union, plagued by falling foreign exchange reserves, might plunge into a default on its foreign debt, estimated at some 70 billion U.S. dollars.

There have been news reports that G-7 nations would allow the Soviet Union to delay repayment of some of its debt to prevent a default.

Opposition Cited To Deployment From Clark Base

OW2809110091 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanse 27 Sep 91 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] It has been disclosed that the 353th Special Operations Air Wing was temporarily transferred from Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines—which has became unusable due to volcanic eruptions—to Kadena Air Base [KAB] and Futenma Air Station. Prefectural citizens are questioning this action and increasing their opposition, asking "Why just Okinawa?" The Kenrokyo [General Council of Okinawa Prefectual Trade Unions] Center is planning to hold a prefectural people's rally to protest the transfer and to start making appeals in Tokyo. The prefectural government, Ginowan City, and Kadena-cho are also planning to take action aimed at demanding withdrawal of the unit.

The unit deployed this time is a combat unit engaged in irregular combat and special tactitics. Although the transfer is temporary, we believe that the function of the U.S. bases on Okinawa has been further strengthened because 400 troops are involved.

Regarding the transfer of U.S armed forces from Clark Base, the arrival of 150 personnel from the air force transport unit (along with seven transportation aircraft) had been initially disclosed on 15 August. Governor Ota filed a protest at the U.S. State Department, the Defense Department, and the Pacific Force General Headquarters. The Prefectural Assembly, at the opening of its regular session on 24 September, unanimously adopted a resolution demanding the withdrawal of the troops. On 25 September, a delegation went to Tokyo to appeal for the unit's withdrawal.

It has been confirmed that because of the Special Operations Air Wing's transfer to Okinawa, 550 personnel and 14 aircraft have been moved from Clark to Okinawa.

Although the Public Relations Department of KAB says that "places are under study where all troops from Clark can be permanently transfered," the Pacific Force General Headquarters cited KAB as a candidate.

On the recently disclosed transfer of the unit to Okinawa, Shinichi Oshiro, director of the governor's office, said: "Regarding the new deployment, as a prefectural government we would like to take measures to insure their immediate withdrawal, after making reference to the relevant authorities as soon as possible." By this he indicated that the prefectural government is taking the troop transfer to Okinawa as a serious issue.

On the other hand, labor unions and democratic organizations are deepening their sense of crisis, saying that "it may lead to a new reorganization and fortification of the bases on Okinawa."

Tomohiro Kayoda, chairman of the Kenrokyo Center, is planning to promote the opposition movement. He said: "Our fears regarding the transfer from the Philippines are becoming reality. They say it is only a temporaty transfer. However, they may start full-scale transfers and fortification of the bases on Okinawa if we allow them to do so this time."

The same center just held an emergency protest rally at Kadena-cho on 12 September. Now that a transfer on a larger scale has been disclosed, Chairman Kayoda said: "I would like to make a proposal at a board meeting, which will be held in the near future, for the holding of a prefectural people's rally to protest the transfer." Criticizing the "passive" stance of the Japanese Government regarding the unit transfer, he also said that "representatives of the labor unions will form a group to protest the transfer and will directly convey the voices of the prefectural people to relevant ministries and agencies as well as the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo."

On the other hand, Masao Miyagi, chairman of Toitsuren [Okinawan Prefecture United Action Liaison Council], disclosed his strong resolve by saying that "the Prefectural Assembly has just adopted a protest resolution, and we absolutely cannot allow fortification of the bases on Okinawa." Toitsuren, through its KAB observation action, lodged a complaint against the transfer. Believing that the transfer "runs against the international trend for disarmament, and that is aimed at strengthening the bases on Okinawa within the scope of U.S. Force's world strategies," he said that "after studying concrete facts, we will develop a movement calling for the immediate withdrawal of the unit which has been transfered."

Remarks By Ginowan City Mayor Masaken Tobaru

While demanding the return of the bases, our city government is also studying how to utilize the bases' land after its return. This unit transfer, which is connected to fortification of the bases, runs against the trend of the time. We would like to express our intention of opposing the transfer as soon as we confirm whether it is just a temporary transfer or a long-term stationing. Although it is an issue related to the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, we absolutely cannot allow the United States to use the bases on Okinawa as it pleases because the unit transfer ignores the will of the prefectural people and the city residents.

Remarks By Kadena Town Chief Tokujitsu Miyagi

We cannot allow forceful fortification of the U.S. military bases. Although it was a natural disaster, the unit was transfer to Kadena again.... The period of transference is uncertain, but KAB is lightheartedly used when something happens. As a result, noise increases and the possibility of airplane accidents becomes high. The townspeople cannot live in peace. In order to enable the townspeople to live in peace and quiet, we will oppose any unit transfer which is connected to the fortification of the bases.

Envoys To Discuss Drift-Net Fishing With U.S.

OW3009144491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1428 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Japan will send officials to the United States next week to discuss drift-net fishing on the open seas, which the United Nations is strongly demanding to ban.

Tokyo will dispatch officials from the Foreign Ministry and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries Ministry's Fisheries Agency to Washington, which is at the head of the movement to ban the practice.

Detailed discussions on drift-net fishing are expected at the UN conference scheduled in November.

Thus, Japan has decided to send the officials to the U.S. prior to the UN conference to explain Tokyo's basic position of urging exceptions to the ban if effective measures to protect resources are adopted.

The officials will try to find if there is room for Tokyo and Washington to compromise their views.

Pearl Industry Protests U.S. Embargo on Mussels

OW2909131091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1221 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 29 KYODO—The U.S. Government is considering a curb on exports to Japan of U.S.-grown freshwater mussel shells used to trigger the formation of pearls inside pearl oysters, fishery agency officials said Sunday.

If the proposal is ratified by signatory nations of the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), it could be a heavy blow to the Japanese pearl industry, the officials said. CITES signatories are to meet in Kyoto in March.

U.S. freshwater mussels are hauled mainly from the Mississippi River and its tributaries. There are 297 species of freshwater mussels in rivers and lakes on the North American continent.

Japan annually imports 10,000 metric tons of several types of the mussels, which are considered the most suitable irritants to trigger the formation of round, gem-quality pearl.

To form a pearl, breeders insert a tiny irritant in the oyster, which stimulates the oyster flesh to secret layers of shiny nacre to isolate the irritant. The nacre surrounds the irritant and builds into a round pearl over a period of one to three years.

The U.S. proposal calls for categorizing all U.S. freshwater mussels under the CITES convention's appendix document II, which would allow the country to limit exports.

The fishery agency already has forwarded a letter to the U.S. Government to oppose the proposal, the officials said.

"If trade in the U.S. freshwater mussels comes to be regulated by the appendix II rule, it would slow down U.S. export procedures and bolster the cost of pearls, even if the U.S. chooses to authorize the export," one official said.

The agency has the support of pearl breeders, who say mussels from other countries cannot match the quality of the U.S. mussels.

Makoto Tange, board director of the Japan Pearl Promotion Society, told KYODO NEWS SERVICE, "the accidental entrapment of endangered species of freshwater mussels is the problem that should be solved by the Americans." "They should not take up the issue at such an international forum as the CITES conference."

The U.S. Government completely bans the export of 26 species of mussels because they are in danger of extinction.

Six other species are regulated by the milder appendix II which imposes conditional restrictions on their export.

The five or six types of U.S. mussels Japan imports are still plentiful and have been exempt from the CITES regulations.

The Americans, however, are concerned that fishermen hauling unrestricted types of mussels are accidentally taking endangered species, as they live in the same waters, the official said.

The U.S. Government imposes strict curbs on domestic fishermen to protect the endangered mussels, which also are used to make ornamental buttons, a practice that put several species in danger of extinction.

The CITES convention allows signatories to regulate not only endangered species but species resembling endangered ones to block the extinction of the endangered ones.

The fishery agency, however, says the U.S. Government needs only to strengthen its supervision over U.S. fishermen to protect the mussels.

New Ambassador to Kenya 'Tentatively' Appointed

OW0110081991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0621 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 (KYODO)—Senior Labor Ministry Official Ginko Sato has been tentatively named Japan's new ambassador to Kenya, government sources said Tuesday.

Sato, 57 has been serving since July 1990 as assistant minister for international labor affairs after a stint as Women's Bureau chief.

Her appointment will become effective on October 18, the sources said.

Sato, a liberal arts graduate of Tokyo University, joined the Labor Ministry in 1958 and will be the fourth woman ambassador of Japan.

Kaifu Opposes Scrapping of Political Reform Bill

OW3009145491 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu threatened Monday that he might dissolve the House of Representatives for a general election on political reform if a package of political reform bills is scrapped at the current Diet session.

Kaifu's suggestion came after the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and opposition parties agreed to scrap a package of reform bills designed mainly to introduce a single-seat constituency system in the lower house at the current Diet session, party sources said.

Kaifu was quoted as saying at a meeting with party executives he has strengthened his "serious determination" to institute political reform.

LDP Secretary General Keizo Obuchi asked Kaifu to give him time to effect a solution to the problem.

The LDP executives agreed to proceed with negotiations with dissidents within the party and opposition parties to try to carry over the bills to the next Diet session, the sources said.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto, Takeshi Nishioka, chairman of the LDP's Executive Council, and Mutsuki Kato, chairman of the LDP's Policy Affairs Research Council, were among those who attended the meeting.

Hikosaburo Okonogi, chairman of the lower house's special committee on political reform, proposed scrapping the bills to directors of the committee from both the governing party and opposition parties.

Opinions about political reform and the electoral system are at variance among parties and it is impossible to implement sufficient debate on the package because the current Diet session is expiring, Okonogi said.

The package is a major agenda item in the current extraordinary Diet session, which ends Friday, and the discarding of the bills would deal a blow to Kaifu, who said he would stake his career on political reform.

The failure to enact the bills in the current Diet session will affect the presidential election of the LDP scheduled for next month. Kaifu's two-year term as LDP president expires October 30.

The LDP presidency carries with it the post of prime minister by virtue of the party's majority in the powerful lower house.

Okonogi told reporters that he made the decision without consulting anyone and that it is difficult to adjust the deliberation schedule.

The LDP will propose that opposition parties create a consultation body for political reform at a meeting of chairmen of Diet affairs committees Tuesday and a meeting of secretaries general thursday, LDP sources said.

The special committee began discussions on the three government-proposed political reform bills September 13.

The opposition parties disagreed with the introduction of a single-seat system into the lower house and even some LDP lawmakers expressed objections to the system during deliberations.

The package is designed to overhaul Japan's electoral system, tighten control on political funds, and provide subsidies to political parties.

The election bill would reduce the size of the lower house to 471 members from the present 512 by introducing a system of single-seat election districts and proportional representation districts.

Under the proposed bill, the current 130 multiple-seat constituencies in the lower house would be converted into 300 single-seat constituencies. The remaining 171 seats would be decided through a proportional representation system.

The current system distributes three to five seats each to the 130 electoral districts.

The political funds control bill would ban in principle corporate and labor union donations to individual politicians.

The political party bill would provide funds to parties to help finance their election campaigns.

The government drafted the bills to restore public trust in politics, battered by the 1989 influence-peddling recruit scandal in which top LDP figures as well as opposition leaders were tainted.

Kaifu said the package was drafted to make election campaigns less costly.

Kaifu assumed his post after the LDP suffered a major setback in elections in the wake of the scandal, being picked because of his clean image.

Under the current multiple-seat constituency, personal rivalries determine campaigns, not political differences, Kaifu said.

Vows To Maintain Reform

OW0110045591 Tokyo KYODO in English 0406 GMT 01 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu vowed Tuesday to keep his campaign for political reforms alive, one day after a parliamentary committee agreed to scrap the bills.

"To prevent the light from being snuffed out on political reform, I plan to establish a consultative body and continue discussions with the (ruling) Liberal Democratic Party (LDP)," Kaifu was quoted by officials as telling his cabinet.

Kaifu urged the cabinet to back up his resolve to promote reforms, aimed at reducing campaign costs and encouraging policy-oriented debate at election time.

After the cabinet meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto told reporters that Kaifu is mulling various means of winning support for political reform, including the calling of a general election.

Sakamoto denied, however, that Kaifu's remark Monday that he had a "serious determination" to institute political reform meant directly he would call a general election on the issue.

"There are various means to achieve political reform, and dissolving the Diet and calling for a mass resignation (of the cabinet) are included in the broad selection of choices," Sakamoto told a regularly scheduled news conference. Key cabinet members voiced support for Kaifu, whose reforms fell through Monday when the LDP Chairman of a Special House of Representatives Committee on Political Reform led a move to scrap the bills.

Chairman Hikosaburo Okonogi said there was not enough time to debate the package of bills before the current Diet session closes at the end of this week.

The bills, which would redraw the current three-to-five-seat electoral districts into single-seat constituencies, and tighten rules on fund-raising, have met stiff opposition in the LDP as well as among opposition parties.

Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto and Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama called for solidarity in support of Kaifu, who has made political reform a top priority since he was ushered into office in August 1989.

At the time, the LDP was reeling from money and sex scandals, and Kaifu, a former education minister with a "clean" image, was tapped to help the party recover.

Elections for the House of Representatives were last held in February 1990.

Kaifu, who has enjoyed relatively high popularity throughout his term, led the party to victory in those elections, and stabilized his hold on power. His two-year term ends on October 30.

Seeks New Consultative Body

OW011C055091 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Excerpt] In connection with the decision of a meeting of the directors of the Lower House Special Committee on Political Reform to practically scrap the political reform-related bills, Prime Minister Kaifu stressed at an informal meeting with cabinet members held after today's regular cabinet meeting that he is determined to exert utmost efforts in order not to put out the torch of political reform, including the creation of a consultative body.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Kaifu said that he regards the decision of a meeting of the directors of the Lower House Special Committee on Political Reform to scrap the three political reform-related bills yesterday as a very serious matter. He held consultations with the four key Liberal Democratic Party [LDP] executives and representatives of the Political Reform Headquarters on the matter last night. In today's meeting, he stated that utmost efforts should be exerted, including the creation of a consultative body between the ruling and opposition parties, in order not to extinguish the torch of political reform, and this should be treated as the most important task of the cabinet. He reiterated his determination to continue efforts to implement political reform, and sought the cooperation of all cabinet members.

In response to this, Foreign Minister Nakayama said that the realization of political reform is also the wish of the people. All cabinet members will act as one in cooperating with the prime minister on this issue in order not to disappoint the people. Finance Minister Hashimoto also stated that he believes that all cabinet members agree with the prime minister's decision. Cabinet members confirmed their intention to exert efforts in order to realize political reform.

At a press conference after the meeting, reporters asked Chief Cabinet Secretary Sakamoto if the major decision Prime Minister Kaifu said he would make at last night's meeting with the four key LDP executives means the dissolution of the House of Representatives followed by a general election or the resignation of the whole cabinet. Sakamoto replied:

[Begin Sakamoto recording] [The prime minister said that] in order to implement political reform, all possible efforts would be exerted. He stated his determination to consider all possible cases and options in the process. As to particular options, such as the dissolution of the Diet or resignation of the cabinet, they are included in the wider context of possible options. His remark did not place specific emphasis on these. [end recording]

Home Affairs Minister Fukida also said at a press conference after the cabinet meeting, that it is unfortunate that the political reform-related bills have been linked to the LDP presidential election. Prime Minister Kaifu has staked the fate of his cabinet on political reform. If he cannot fulfill this promise, he might as well take the initiative and seek a vote of confidence from the people.

The LDP executive meeting today formally acknowledged the decision of the Special Committee on Political Reform's directors' meeting to scrap the political reform-related bills, and agreed to work for the creation of a new consultative body between the ruling and opposition parties on political reform before the end of the present Diet session. [passage omitted]

Wrapping-Material Cartel Price Hikes Examined

OW0110045091 Tokyo KYODO in English 0340 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—International Trade and Industry Minister Eiichi Nakao said Tuesday it would be "extremely regretful" if the alleged price-fixing cartel among major wrapping material makers proves true.

After the day's regularly scheduled cabinet meeting, Nakao told a news conference that the ministry will "have to act" to prevent a repeat of such irregularities.

But for now, he said, the ministry will "closely watch" what is turned up in an ongoing investigation by the country's antitrust watchdog organization.

The Fair Trade Commission (FTC) reportedly is considering bringing criminal charges against eight major food wrapping material makers whose dubious price hikes are suspected of violating the Antimonopoly Law.

Many analysts believe the charges are intended to show Japan's willingness to fulfill promises made during bilateral trade talks with the United States when Japan pledged to beef up enforcement of antitrust regulations.

If filed, the charges would be the first such leveled in 17 years.

Probe Shows Investors Requested Kickbacks

OW0110050191 Tokyo KYODO in English 0357 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Over 90 percent of the stock investment loss compensations made by Japanese brokerages to favored clients during the fiscal year ending March 1991 were made in response to requests from their customers, a senior Finance Ministry official said Tuesday.

Nobuhiko Matsuno, director general of the ministry's Securities Bureau, said of the total 78 loss compensation cases reported for the period, 75 were made after some form of prodding from investors. The monetary amount was 38,919 million yen out of the 43,552 million yen total in those cases.

Matsuno made his remarks before a House of Councilors Ad Hoc Committee probing the recent stock scandal as he answered questions from an opposition member of the Upper House.

The clients, mostly corporate investors, did not ask directly for paybacks, but said something like "give us a better fund management record," or "cut the losses we have to make our business records look better," according to Matsuno.

But, he added, while securities firms in the 75 reimbursement cases say their clients made payback requests, clients involved say they have no such perceptions.

Matsuno added that so far the ministry has not uncovered any cases of brokerages making advance yield guarantees to clients.

Unemployment Rate Remains Unchanged in Aug

OW0110025991 Tokyo KYODO in English 0921 GMT 01 Oct 91

[Text] Tokyo, Oct. 1 KYODO—Japan's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate stood at 2.2 percent in August, the same rate as in July, a preliminary government report said Tuesday.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has been drifting at 2-2.2 percent since September 1989.

The size of the work force, including the unemployed, stood at 65.64 million in August, an increase of 1.47 million or 2.3 percent from a year ago, according to the report released by the management and coordination agency.

The male work force was 38.74 million, up 2 percent, and the female 26.90 million, up 2.7 percent.

The number of unemployed in August hit 1.39 million, an increase of 90,000 or 6.9 percent over the year before. The figure consists of 800,000 men and 590,000 women.

A breakdown of those employed showed there were 8.77 million self-employed, down 3.2 percent from a year ago; 5.16 million family workers, down 5.8 percent; and 50.14 million salaried-workers, up 4.2 percent.

By industry, agriculture-forestry accounted for 4.44 million, down 5.3 percent from a year before; construction 5.98 million, up 2.7 percent; manufaturing 15.55 million, up 3.4 percent; wholesale- retail and food services 14.45 million, up 2.2 percent; and services 14.45 million, up 4.1 percent.

The labor ministry said the ratio of job openings to job seekers in August stood at a seasonally adjusted 1.37, down 0.06 percentage points since July.

The figure means there were 137 job openings for every 100 job seekers in August, ministry officials said.

North Korea

Diplomatic Relations Established With Latvia

SK0110045391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0429 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—A joint declaration on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the DPRK and the Republic of Latvia was signed in Riga on September 26, according to a report.

The declaration says that the DPRK and Latvian Governments have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level in order to develop the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries in all spheres on the principle of mutual respect for independence, equality and non-interference in other's internal affairs.

It was signed by DPRK Ambassador to the Soviet Union Son Song-pil, authorized by the DPRK Government, and Latvian Foreign Minister Janis Jurkans, authorized by the Latvian Government.

Foreign Leaders Support DPRK UN Admission

SK0110103391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—Foreign delegates supported the Korean people's cause of national reunification in their speeches at the 46th session of the U.N. General Assembly.

Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen congratulated our Republic's entry into the U.N. and said that it is a favourable great event for the relaxation of situation on the Korean peninsula.

He hoped that the North and the South of Korea would improve relations through dialogue and negotiations and remove confrontation and knots and finally achieve the independent and peaceful reunification of the country. Norodom Sihanouk, chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia said that he warmly supported the wise and patriotic proposal for reunification put forward by His Excellency Marshal Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Korea is one, not two, he noted. The Indian foreign minister stressed that the entry of the North and the South of Korea into the U.N. would contribute to dialogue and reconciliation on the Korean peninsula and strengthening peace and security of the world.

The minister of external affairs of Burkina Faso congratulated the admission of our Republic to the U.N. and supported the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea based on the July 4 North-South joint statement.

The foreign minister of Angola welcomed the initiatives for the reunification of Korea and the withdrawal of foreign troops from the Korean peninsula. He stressed that the proposals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the reunification of the country should be taken into affirmative consideration as it is of great significance to the Korean people and the Korean peninsula as a whole. Head of state of Liechtenstein, 'Amir of State of Kuwait, president of Surinam, foreign ministers of Ghana, Turkey, Malta, Costa Rica, Belorussia, Colombia, Honduras, Iran and Denmark and minister of education of Papua New Guinea congratulated DPRK's entry into the U.N. and hoped that it would contribute to the reunification of Korea.

Leaders Attend Reception for PRC Anniversary

SK0110064191 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0543 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—Zheng Yi, Chinese ambassador to Korea, gave a reception at his embassy on September 30 on the occasion of the 42nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

Invited there were Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice- president, Kang Hui-won and Chang Chol, vice-premiers of the Administration Council, and other officials concerned.

Ambassador Zheng Yi elaborated on the foundation of the PRC and its significance and achievements made by the Chinese people in the revolution and construction in the past 42 years.

Then he noted that the fraternal Korean people under the leadership of the great leader Comrade President Kim Il-song and the Workers' Party of Korea have covered the road of socialism for tens of years without wavering, implemented the line of independence in politics, self-reliance in economy and self-support in national defence and registered success in socialist construction under the banner of three revolutions, ideological, technical and cultural, drawing the attention of the world people.

Noting that the entry of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea into the United Nations some time ago vividly showed the dignity and position of the DPRK, he said this is another victory of the DPRK's peaceful foreign policy.

The Communist Party and Government of China, he stressed, resolutely support a series of reasonable initiatives taken by the Korean party and government to realize the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and ease the tensions on the Korean peninsula and the proposal put forward by Comrade President Kim Il- song to reunify the country through confederation on the basis of one nation, one state, two systems and two governments.

Though serious changes have occurred in the international arena in the past scores of years, they have never shaken the Sino-Korean friendship which has struck deep roots in the hearts of the two peoples, he said, and continued:

The leadership of the third generation of the Communist Party of China with Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core attaches great significance to and sets great store by this great friendship which was established and cultivated by revolutionaries of old generations such as Comrade Mao Zedong, Comrade Zhou Enlai and Comrade Deng Xiaoping together with Comrade President Kim Il-song and will make every possible effort to further develop this great friendship.

Noting that Comrade President Kim Il-song will shortly pay a visit to China, he said that the expected important meetings and talks between the leaders of the two parties and the two countries will make a new contribution to the further promotion of the traditional friendship between the Chinese and Korean peoples and record a new chapter in the history of Sino-Korean friendship.

Speaking next, Kang Hui-won, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the WPK and vice-premier, extended warmest congratulations to the Chinese party and government and the fraternal Chinese people on the significant national day.

We are particularly happy to celebrate the national day of our intimate Chinese people at a time when the whole country is overflowing with joy upon receiving the important announcement of the expected visit of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the PRC, he said, and stressed:

His visit to China will mark another historical occasion in further consolidating and developing traditional Korea-China friendship in compliance with the requirements of the developing present situation. I am convinced that his visit will make a great contribution to fortifying the socialist position in the East as firm as a rock and preserving and consolidating peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

Today the fraternal Chinese people, closely rallied behind the CPC with respected General Secretary Jiang at the core, are energetically striving to deepen reform and opening to the outside world and build a modernized socialism with Chinese characteristics. They are now adhering to the road of socialism and linking their destiny only with socialism. This is a hard blow at the imperialists' "peaceful transition" strategy.

We support the just and reasonable policies of the Communist Party and Government of China for the reunification of the whole country in accordance with the principle of "one country, two systems" and express firm solidarity with the Chinese people in their efforts to this end.

The Korean and Chinese peoples are in the relationship of lips and teeth and they have experienced through their practical life that their destinies are linked together. The Korean people will fight in close unity with the fraternal Chinese people for the cause of peace and socialism, a common and noble goal, in the future, too.

Papers Dedicate Editorials to PRC Founding

SK0110064691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0512 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—Papers here today dedicate editorials to the 42nd anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

NODONG SINMUN says that the founding of the PRC was a great event which ushered in a new epoch in the long history of the Chinese people and converted the global balance of forces decisively in favour of the cause of independence against imperialism and the cause of socialism.

Since the founding of the PRC, the industrious and courageous Chinese people have built a new, powerful socialist China on their land by fully displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and hard struggle and overcoming manifold difficulties and trials, the editorial continues:

The Chinese people who have entered a new stage of development with the third plenary meeting of the 11th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China are now making big strides forward in the efforts to build socialism with Chinese characteristics while consolidating the political phase of stability and unity, maintaining four cardinal principles and deepening reform and opening to the outside world under the correct leadership of the CPC with Comrade Jiang Zemin at the core.

They are opposing the imperialists' reactionary "peaceful transition" strategy and bourgeois liberalisation, achieving great successes in different fields of the national economy, developing science and technology and consolidating the defence capabilities of the country.

The Chinese people are actively striving to reunify the country in accordance with the principle of "one country, two systems."

Thanks to its consistent foreign policy of sovereignty, independence and love of peace, the international prestige of the PRC is growing day by day and it is making an ever greater contribution to the cause of peace in Asia and the rest of the world.

The Korean people rejoice as over their own over the achievements registered by the fraternal Chinese people and extend firm solidarity to their struggle for promoting the modernization of socialism and accelerating the reunification of the country.

The Korea-China friendship is a militant friendship which has been forged in blood in the struggle against imperialism and for the building of a new society and overcome tests of history and a precious friendship which has constantly developed on the basis of the peculiar intimacy between the party and state leaders of the two countries.

Mutual visits and meetings between the party and state leaders of the two countries in recent years marked important occasions in consolidating and developing this friendship to a new higher stage.

The expected visit of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song to the PRC will be an epochal event of historical significance in strengthening the traditional Korea-China friendship and achieving the victory of the cause of socialism.

The Korea-China friendship makes a great contribution to accelerating socialist construction in the two countries and guaranteeing peace and security in Asia and the rest of the world.

The Korean people will make every possible effort to carry forward and develop this great friendship down through generations and always fight side by side with the Chinese people on the road to the victory of socialism.

MINJU CHOSON says that the Korean people sincerely wish the fraternal Chinese people greater success in their endeavours to step up the mordernization of the country and safeguard peace.

U.S. Military Holds Exercises on 27-30 Sep

SK0110053591 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0459 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—The U.S. Pacific Air Force Command staged provocative joint war exercises to increase air strike capacity in the skies above Oeyon and Anmyon islets over September 27-29, according to military sources.

Mobilised in the exercises were formations of fighter-bombers, assault planes, pursuit-assault planes and refuelling tankers based in Japan proper and the Pacific and more than 300 fighter-bombers, assault planes and observation planes belonging to the U.S. Air Force present in South Korea and the puppet air force.

On the 30th of September, the U.S. imperialists sent in succession U-2 high-altitude strategic reconnaissance planes and tactical army reconnaissance planes to the sky above the Military Demarcation Line [MDL] and let them make a shuttle flight from the east to the west for aerial photographing of objects in the strategic depths and frontline area of the northern half of Korea.

On September 27 and 28, 105 mm gun groups of the puppet army massed in Inje and Yonchon Counties, South Korean Kangwon Province, fired nearly 200 artillery shells at a point near the demilitarized zone along the MDL.

On September 29, formations of armed helicopters of the puppet army staged a war exercises aimed at nocturnal target-finding and surprise attack in the sky above Paju County, Kyonggi Province.

SRV General Secretary Supports Reunification

SK0110053491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0457 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—Do Muoi, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, met with the Korean ambassador to his country on September 27.

The general secretary said Korea is a country which is successfully building socialism through self-reliance. The party and government and people of Vietnam support the Korean people's cause of reunification as in the past, he declared.

Kim Il-song Receives Swiss Ambassador 30 Sep

SK3009111491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 30 (KCNA)—The great leader President Kim Il-song today received Erwin Schurtenberger, ambassador e.p. [extraordinary and plenipotentiary] of the Swiss Confederation to Korea.

Present on the occasion were First Vice-minister of Foreign Affairs Kang Sok-chu and an official of the Swiss Embassy.

The ambassador handed a personal letter and gift of President of the Swiss Confederation Flavio Cotti to President Kim Il-song.

President Kim Il-song expressed thanks for this and conversed with the ambassador.

Japanese Group Reaffirms Stance for Reunification

SK0110133891 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1013 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—Hiroshi Wakabayashi, secretary general of the Japan Committee for Supporting the Independent and Peaceful Reunification of Korea, delivered a keynote report under the title "Characteristic Features of the Present Situation and Immediate Tasks of the Movement" at the tenth national meeting of the movement for supporting Korea's reunification.

He said the joint declaration of the three parties of Japan and the DPRK which confirms the basic conception that "Korea is one" and stipulates that Japan should apologize for losses and damages she had inflicted upon Korea and the Korean people before and after the war and compensate for them and expresses the willingness to establish new diplomatic relations means a fundamental change in Japan's policy toward the DPRK.

He said:

We should support the joint statement of political parties and public organisations of the DPRK on the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone and, at the same time, demand an immediate withdrawal of the nuclear weapons from the Korean peninsula so as to get the U.S. nuclear danger removed from the whole of Asia.

The most immediate task facing the Japanese is to demand by all means and methods that the government realise the joint declaration of the three parties of Japan and the DPRK as early as possible.

He further said:

Korea is one. We demand a new response of the government commensurate with the new era of the international public toward dialogue, disarmament, peace and cooperation. The government is letting out the sophistry that the DPRK's admission to the United Nations and the recognition of it as a state are separate matters. Such attitude can never be tolerated.

Of late the word "Korean-style socialism" is often heard. It has a very profound meaning. It is also our important task to disseminate a correct information and knowledge of the DPRK.

The Korean people united through the pan-national rally are making strenuous efforts to make 1995 the year of national reunification.

Let us affirm that we will smash all sorts of manoeuvres to obstruct reunification in order to realise their national desire, he added.

Blames Japan for Blocking Ties

SK0110110691 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1006 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—The tenth national meeting of the Movement for Supporting Korea's Reunification which was held in Tokyo adopted a letter to the Korean people on September 28.

With the three-party joint declaration of the Liberal Democratic Party and Social-Democratic Party of Japan and the Workers' Party of Korea made public in September last year, the door of a new era was opened between Japan and the DPRK which had been under continued abnormal relations as in the era of the last colonial domination, the letter says, and continues:

The intergovernmental negotiations between the two countries seldom progresses because of the Japanese side.

What the Japanese Government should do at present is to accept the three-party joint declaration in good faith and solve the provisions laid down in it before anything else. We demand that the Japanese Government approach negotiations with sincerity in accordance with the three-party joint declaration and realise the normalisation of diplomatic relations by making a clean sheet of the wrongdoings of the past.

Paying attention to the fact that the DPRK's U.N. membership means a fundamental change in the relations between the U.N. and the DPRK, the letter says that hastening the replacement of the armistice agreement with a peace agreement and an early withdrawal of the "U.N. forces" that are still in a belligerent state is an important task of the movement.

The letter demands that the South Korean authorities respect the three principles of national reunification laid down in the July 4 North-South joint statement, remove all things that bar great national unity and immediately release conscientious patriotic political prisoners including the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and woman student Yim Su-kyong.

Demands U.S. Withdrawal From South

SK0110052291 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0435 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—A Tokyo appeal was adopted on September 28 at the tenth national meeting of the movement for supporting Korea's reunification held in Japan.

The appeal says:

Although the world is moving toward peace and stability, there still remains North-South confrontation on the Korean peninsula which can be said to lie at the bottom of the cold war structure.

1. In order to create a precondition for peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, we demand an immediate withdrawal of the U.S. nuclear weapons and troops from South Korea and the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

2. We demand that the United States and the South Korean authorities immediately respond to the DPRK's proposal for replacing the DPRK-U.S. Armistice Agreement by a peace agreement and adopting a nonaggression declaration between the North and the South for the sake of guaranteeing a durable peace on the Korean peninsula and stop all dangerous military provocations including the "Team Spirit."

3. The cause of Korea's division rests with Japan, but the U.S. domination of South Korea has remained for 46 years since the division and 38 years since the cease-fire and is inflicting sufferings of national division on the Korean people. The reunification of Korea is the desire of the Korean nation and, at the same time, the urgent demand of the times. Meanwhile, the No "government" is suppressing with the "National Security Law" the national democratic movement of South Korea desirous of the reunification of the nation.

We fully support the DPRK's proposal for reunifying Korea by means of founding a democratic confederal republic of Koryo on the three principles of national reunification—independence, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

4. The normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations should be realised in the spirit of the three-party joint declaration. The 36-year-long colonial rule by Japanese imperialism beginning in 1910 and the 46-year-long hostile policy of the Japanese Government toward the DPRK and its evasion of responsibility for national discrimination should be compensated with an apology.

We strongly demand that the Japanese Government refrain from raising "nuclear inspection" of the DPRK and other issues which must not be mentioned at the Japan-DPRK negotiation and sincerely approach the negotiation for an early normalisation of Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations.

In conclusion, we call for waging the movement for supporting the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea as ever in unity with the organisations and forces supporting it at home.

LSWYK Head Urges Allowing Students To Meet

SK3009124391 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1050 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 30 (KCNA)—Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the C.C. [Central Committee], League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea [LSWYK], today issued a statement, urging the South Korean authorities to allow students of Konguk University to visit the North.

Choe Yong-hae said:

This time, students of the Korean Literature Department of Kim Il-song University and students of the national literature course of Konguk University in South Korea agreed to exchange visits, establish sister relations between the two universities and hold debate on reunification and linguistics. This fully reflected the gushing passion of the nation including students in the North and the South for reunification. Blocking their way to the North under an unreasonable pretext is a grave challenge to the nation's desire for reunification.

If the South Korean authorities throw a wet blanket over the fervour of the 70 million Koreans including students for reunification and block the way of patriotic, reunification- oriented nongovernmental contact, they will face denunciation by the nation.

The South Korean authorities must stop at once the anti-reunification act of blocking the nongovernmental exchange and contact between students in the North and the South and immediately open the door for the students of Konguk University to visit the North.

Pak Kyong-hui, chairman of the student committee of Pyongyang University of Medicine, issued a statement, saying:

The South Korean authorities block the contact and visits between students in the North and the South. This proves that their talk about "exchange" and "visits" is a lie.

The South Korean authorities must not block the righteous struggle of the students who are faithful to justice and truth and filled with patriotism.

Papers Denounce South Korean Defense Minister

SK0110062491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0536 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Pyongyang October 1 (KCNA)—South Korean puppet Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku called for "military options" to "curb the North's nuclear plan," crying over fictitious "nuclear development of the North" at a recent "National Assembly" hearing.

NODONG SINMUN and MINJU CHOSON commentaries today brand this as a nuclear war hokum of the trigger-happy element.

The news analyst of NODONG SINMUN says:

Yi's outburst is a grave military provocation of the warmaniac and a declaration of war against us, which can never be overlooked.

He who had told South Korean newspaper editors in April that puppet commandos would be sent to "surprise" the North called for "military actions" again this time. This cannot be construed as a casual mistake or "a slip of the tongue" of the war fanatic.

His war blast means immediately an expression of the intention of the South Korean puppet authorities and it resulted from the instigation of the United States which wirepulls them.

As already exposed, more than 1,000 pieces of U.S. nuclear weapons and means of their delivery are deployed in South Korea at present.

These days, the South Korean puppets and the U.S. military brasshats are claiming a nuclear inspection with a vociferous talk about fictitious "nuclear development of the North," while prettifying the U.S. nuclear weapons in South Korea as "a war deterrent." This is a premeditated intrigue to create a pretext for war against the North.

Not more than once have we called in the past for the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea and for the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free, peace zone. This year, too, we advanced an epochal peace package including the question of the North and the South agreeing to establish a nuclear- free zone on the Korean peninsula and jointly declaring it.

We are following with vigilance the reckless moves of the war fanatics who watch for a chance of nuclear preemptive strike, and will never overlook their criminal moves.

The news analyst of MINJU CHOSON says:

Dialogue or peaceful reunification cannot be hoped for while the warmaniacs who cry for Northward invasion are left alone.

The South Korean authorities should show in practical deeds whether they want dialogue or war through a handling of this case.

Daily Condemns 'Flunkeyist Traitors' in South

SK3009092691 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0758 GMT 30 Sep 91

["Criminal Deeds of Flunkeyist Traitors"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang September 30 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a commentary today hits out at the criminal acts of the pro-American flunkeyist traitors in South Korea who count on the strength of the United States, worship it and try to solve the question of national reunification by dint of it.

The news analyst says:

The No Tae-u ruling group, urged by its ambition for "prevail-over-communism unification" by force of arms, "unification through absorption" according to the strategy of "peaceful transition," is zealously begging for permanent presence of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea, while entreating big countries to induce the North to "opening."

These days even some responsible politicians of the opposition camp, traveling abroad, are openly contending that the U.S. forces must not withdraw from South Korea.

It is a sorry sight, indeed, for some people of South Korea allegedly engaged in politics to let loose sycophant remarks, obsessed with an illusion about big countries, the United States in particular, not believing in the strength of their own nation.

When a great unity of the nation is achieved, a nation which regards independence as what keeps it alive, it is possible at this very moment to get the U.S. occupation forces withdrawn from South Korea and accomplish the historical cause of national reunification. Our nation is convinced of it.

Some responsible politicians of South Korea, however, are trying to achieve "unification" with the help of outside forces, disregarding the spirit of independence of the patriotic-minded nation.

This is a perverse way of thinking of those wretches who are bereft of the nation's soul.

As for the big countries which some politicians of South Korea are visiting with hat in hand, they are the very countries which drove the demarcation line markers bisecting Korea.

If the United States had truly wanted Korea's reunification and full independence, it would have already long ago withdrawn its occupation forces from South Korea and taken hands off Korea.

Those who believe in and worship the strength of the United States and try to accomplish something in reliance upon it are no doubt pro-American flunkeyist traitors who were brought up by the United States and imbued to the marrow with the spirit of subservience to the U.S.

It is well worth noting that the words and deeds of some politicians of South Korea who are more zealously upholding the United States, clinging to its coattails these days, are connected with their greed for power.

The present rulers, the bosses of the ruling party and even some politicians of the opposition camp are vyingly letting out pro- American wordage with the new "presidential elections" slated for next year. This is chiefly aimed at finding favor with the American master and thus capturing the "presidential" seat.

The attempts of some South Korean politicians to occupy the seat of power under the patronage of their master in return for bartering away the nation's sovereignty and all interests and rights, having lost support of the people, are unpardonable treacherous acts like those of the five traitors of Ulsa (1905).

Their demeanor is signs of the ruin of South Korea. Clear is the end of some South Korean politicians who have turned their back on the nation and are trying to prolong their remaining days on the crumbs of bread falling from the tables of outside forces.

No matter who will come to power, whether the No Tae-u group remain in power by winning confidence of the United States, or whether someone of the opposition camp take over the power, their political career can never last long if they curry favor with the aggressors and engage themselves in treacheries, turning their back on the people.

They should look straight at the situation and draw a proper lesson from it and refrain from their foolish acts of serving big countries any longer.

Red Cross, Lawyers Denounce ROK Rights Abuses

SK2909122291 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1013 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 29 (KCNA)—The No Tae-u ruling group must unconditionally and immediately release all the political prisoners including long-term prisoners and reinstate them to their original status, said a joint statement issued today by the Central Committee

[C.C.] of the DPRK Red Cross Society and the Korean Democratic Lawyers Association [KDLA].

Citing facts in detail to expose that a large number of long- term prisoners in South Korea are now subjected to brutal tortures, inhumane maltreatment and persecution, the statement says:

Branding the South Korean fascist clique's heinous violations of human rights as an inhumanitarian, barbarian act without an equal even in the mediaeval age of darkness, as the worst strangulation of human rights, the C.C., DPRK Red Cross Society and the KDLA bitterly denounce it.

It is because the fascist clique are forcing an inhuman conversion system that many prisons in Taejon, Taegu, Andong, Chonju, Kwangju and other areas of South Korea are now packed with long-term prisoners.

The No Tae-u group, far from releasing long-term prisoners, is rather increasing their number on the pretext of their refusal to convert, arresting guiltless people by fabricating various cases.

If the fascist clique continue to keep long-term prisoners behind the bars, they will face fiercer resistance from the South Korean people and stronger international accusations.

Availing ourselves of this opportunity, we express the belief that the governments, political parties and public organizations of all countries in the world and international organizations and peoples that treasure human dignity, freedom and rights will pay due attention to the violations of human rights in South Korea and lift up louder voices of solidarity for the South Korean people's righteous struggle for the release of all the political prisoners including long-term prisoners.

Meeting Marks Founding Anniversary of University

SK3009121491 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Pyongyang September 30 (KCNA)—A meeting was held today to mark the 45th founding anniversary of Kim Il-song University.

Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and vice-president, and other party and government senior officials were present there.

The meeting was attended by members of a delegation of Choson University and home-visiting groups of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan, delegations of Beijing and Yanbian Universities of China, the Far East State University of the Soviet Union and Ulaanbaator University of Mongolia which are staying here to particiapte in the celebration functions of the foundation of the university.

At the meeting Vice-president Yi Chong-ok read out a congratulatory message of the WPK Central Committee to the teachers and students of Kim Il-song University.

The message said Kim Il-song University, in line with our party's policy of education, has trained many people fully equipped with the revolutionary outlook on the leader and prepared scientifically and theoretically and thus made a great contribution to solving the problem of native cadres which was one of the most difficult problems in the building of a new country and to meeting the demand for able revolutionaries which is growing with the progress of the revolution and construction.

Those trained by the university are playing a pivotal role in the party and state bodies, working people's organizations and economic and cultural organs and greatly contributing to building and managing our-style socialism, the message noted, and stressed:

The Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea highly estimates the fact that over the past 45 years the teachers and students of Kim Il-song University, with boundless loyalty to the party and the leader, have performed great feats for the country and the people by implementing to the letter our party's policy of education and science.

Pak Kwan-o, president of the university, made a report.

He said that over the past 45 years the university has developed into a model university of socialist education under the wise leadership of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

The great leader founded Kim Il-song University in the complicated conditions of accomplishing the cause of building a party, state and army right after the liberation of the country and indicated the orientation and ways of the university activities at every stage of the developing revolution, the reporter said and continued:

It was under the wise guidance of Comrade Kim Chong-il that the university has opened a new phase of its development.

He made sure that the revolutionary outlook on the leader has firmly been established among the teachers and students. He has led contents of education, teaching method, educational administration and the work of creating educational circumstances in accordance with the intentions of the great leader. He also indicated the orientation and ways for widening the educational scale and raising its standard in conformity with the requirements of the three revolutions—ideological, technological and cultural—and for bringing up a large number of associate doctors and doctors of twenties and thirties.

Under the leadership of the party and the leader the university has made brilliant achievements in the efforts to implement the chuche-orientated educational ideology and the unique policy toward intellectuals.

He referred to the tasks to strengthen the university work.

Meanwhile, an exhibition showing the achievements made in educational science opened at the university on its 45th founding anniversary.

KCNA Reviews 28 Sep Pyongyang Press

SK2809090091 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0449 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Press review]

[Text] Pyongyang September 28 (KCNA)—Papers here today give top frontpage prominence to the announcement that Comrade Kim Il- song, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, will shortly pay a visit to the People's Republic of China upon the invitation of Comrade Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, and Comrade Yang Shangkun, president of the People's Republic of China.

According to the press, immortal classical works of the great leader President Kim Il-song were studied and disseminated in different countries.

NODONG SINMUN deals with the loving care shown by President Kim Il-song to labour hero Chin Ung-won of Chollima steel complex who was the first head of the Chollima workteam.

Conveyed in the daily are words of South Korean people ardently revering President Kim Il-song.

Works of the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il were studied and disseminated in various countries, says the press.

Econews of the press includes reports that a bumper harvest has visited the tideland-turned plains on the west coast and the Chonggye and Chongdan mines, suppliers of raw materials to the Sariwon potassic fertilizer complex, started production.

The press reports that DPRK Premier Yon Hyong-muk and a DPRK delegation headed by Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam left here for the 46th session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Given in NODONG SINMUN are an account of a joint symposium of the DPRK-Japan Friendship Association and the Korean Society for Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries on the occasion of the first anniversary of the publiction of the three-party joint declaration on the DPRK-Japan relations and a report of the meeting held to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of Radio No. 1. Introduced in the daily are reports of the Japanese papers about the performance of the Pochonbo light music troupe.

The press deals with the arrival in Pyongyang of delegations and delegates of different countries and a Japanese motorcycle squad and a Soviet Nakhodka motorcade to participate in the international solidarity march for supporting the reunification of Korea and with statements published by delegates of international and regional organisations at the airport upon arrival in Pyongyang.

Students Pak Song-hui and Song Yong-sung, delegates of the National Council of Student Representatives (Chondaehyop) of South Korea staying in Pyongyang, visited the Korean art gallery, says the press.

Appearing in NODONG SINMUN is a joint statement released by the Korean Students Committee and the students committee of Kim Il-song University to denounce the South Korean authorities for illegally blocking the northern excursion of students of the National Language Course of Konguk University of South Korea which had been agreed upon.

In this connection, the press runs commentaries.

MINJU CHOSON comes out with an article demanding that the South Korean authorities give up anti-reunification moves.

It is reported in the press that the prime minister of Thailand visited China, the Syrian president rejected the U.S."support" to Israel, the Pakistani president elaborated on the establishment of a new international order and the chairman of the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania called for increased production of food.

NODONG SINMUN conveys the calls of Caribbean community nations for the termination of the U.S. economic blockade against Cuba, remarks of the former U.S. attorney-general that the Persian Gulf war was a war of massacres committed by the United States and deals with the situation in the Soviet Union.

The daily introduces economic achievements in China.

It runs an article entitled "Withdrawal of U.S. Nuclear Weapons From South Korea and Peace in Asia".

South Korea

Ministry Reaffirms Opposition to Denuclearization

SK0110101291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0941 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 1 (OANA-YONHAP)—Pullout of U.S. nuclear weapons from South Korea is not linked to North Korea's signing of the Nuclear Safeguards Accord, a Foreign Ministry official said Tuesday.

Both South Korea and the United States oppose making the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone since it would mean a halt to protection of South Korea under the U.S. nuclear umbrella, the official said.

The latest U.S. nuclear initiative is a unilateral issue and cannot be a subject of Seoul-Washington negotiations, the official said. Because the policy is unilateral, South Korea will not need to separately declare that it does not have U.S. nuclear arsenal on its territory, he said.

"The initiative will not be delayed or reconsidered even if North Korea delays signing and implementation of the nuclear safeguards accords," he said.

The official denied reports that the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and the Soviet Union will hold multilateral negotiations to discuss declaring the Korean peninsula a nuclear-free zone, saying the Seoul government does not want to bring up Korean issues to international discussion.

"If the peninsula is declared nuclear-free zone, South Korea would no longer be covered under the U.S. nuclear umbrella. Both Seoul and Washington are opposed to the idea," he said.

The United States is keeping its air-launched weapons which would still protect South Korea, said the official, and Washington will not have to discard its neither-confirm-nor-deny policy on its nuclear deployment.

South Korea's position is that it will seek denuclearization of the Korean peninsula within protection from American nuclear umbrella, according to the official.

Preparatory talks for the annual Korea-U.S. Security Consultative Meeting (SCM) will open in Hawaii Oct. 7-9, and officials from the two sides are expected to review overall security policies on the Korean peninsula.

The official added that Washington made clear it would not improve its ties with North Korea unless the latter completely abandons its nuclear development.

Richard Solomon, assistant U.S. secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs, met with South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang- ok at the United Nations and made clear Washington's position toward Pyongyang, the official said.

Soviet Envoy Discusses Relations, Nuclear Issues

Moscow To 'Persuade' DPRK

SK3009135291 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "9:00 news": Report and interview with Soviet Ambassador to the ROK Sokolov by reporter Kim Hong on 30 September; report begins with anchorman Pak Sok-tae introduction—place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Anchorman Pak Sok-tae] At a function on the first anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union, Sokolov, Soviet ambassador in Seoul, stressed that no country can be an exception from the worldwide trend toward freedom from the nuclear horror. He also said that the Soviet Union would continuously persuade North Korea to accept nuclear inspection. Reporter Kim Hong will report:

[Reporter Kim Hong] Sokolov, Soviet Ambassador to the ROK, arranged a reception on the first anniversary of the establishment of ROK-Soviet diplomatic relations. During the reception, he said that the world is marking the new era of arms reduction and that no country can be an exception from this worldwide trend. Ambassador Sokolov stated that the Soviet Union's position on a ban on nuclear proliferation has been clear and resolute and that the Soviet Government would exercise its influence to ensure that North Korea signs the nuclear safeguards accord and accepts international inspection.

[Begin Sokolov recording in English; Camera isolates solely on Soviet Ambassador Sokolov] Well, we have been already playing that role in conveying our position to everybody, including Pyongyang. They know our position very, very well. And I think it is one factor to be reckoned with. [end recording]

Soviet Ambassador Sokolov also said that Presidents Gorbachev and Yeltsin are very positively responding to the new U.S. nuclear policy and that the Soviet Government, too, would advance a rather forward-looking arms reduction proposal. He also said that for the past one year since the ROK and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations, the two countries have achieved the surprising development of reunification. He expressed his hope that political, economic, and cultural exchange and relations of cooperation in other fields will expand rapidly in the future.

Views Ties, Nuclear Proposals

SK0110090591 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 1 Oct 91 p 5

[Interview with Ambassador Oleg M. Sokolov in Seoul on 30 September, the first anniversary of diplomatic ties between the ROK and the Soviet Union; place not given—compiled by reporter Yi Ki-tong]

[Text] [Reporter] What is your view on the first anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the ROK and the Soviet Union?

[Sokolov] The establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries has made definite contributions in several areas over the last year. First, it helped in the simultaneous UN entry by North and South Korea, and second, it helped improve inter-Korean relations and brought forth economic cooperation and exchanges in many areas in a full-fledged manner.

[Reporter] What are the prospects for relations between the two countries?

[Sokolov] My personal view is that although economic cooperation is important, we should also expand exchanges in many fields, including culture, information, and science and technology. It also contributed greatly politically and security-wise to the stabilization of the situation on the Korean peninsula and to the stabilization of the Soviet border in the Far East.

[Reporter] What is the position of the Soviet Government as to U.S. President Bush's announcement on the abolition of short-range nuclear arms?

[Sokolov] I think that President Bush's overture became a new stimulant to the global mood of nuclear arms reduction. President Gorbachev and Russian President Yeltsin have already expressed their welcome to this proposal, but the government, on its part, will soon take a positive and specific step to respond to it.

[Reporter] It seems that the Soviet economy is experiencing greater difficulty after the failed August coup.

[Sokolov] The coup further deepened the Soviet economic difficulty. The food situation has become an urgent problem with the winter approaching. The Soviet Union wishes the ROK to fulfill its plan of assistance to the Soviet Union as it promised.

[Reporter] What is the Soviet position on nuclear arms on the Korean peninsula and inspection of North Korean nuclear facilities?

[Sokolov] Ever since the Soviet Union signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, the Soviet Union has maintained the position that there should be no exception in this matter.

[Reporter] Some people are concerned that, taking advantage of the Soviet retreat from Northeast Asia owing to its economic difficulty and disarmament, Japan may attempt to rearm itself.

[Sokolov] North and South Korean people, as well as the Soviet people, will not tolerate this. It runs counter to the world trend for peace.

[Reporter] What is your first-hand impression of the Korean people?

[Sokolov] I am deeply impressed by the industry and kindness shown by the majority of the people. This is a sign that the Korean people have a bright future, I am sure. I hope, however, that the extravagance practiced by some people will be restrained to a level which does not hurt the Korean people's traditional sensibility.

ROK Envoy Interviewed on Relations With Moscow

SK0110095491 Seoul KBS-1 Television Network in Korean 1200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Interview with Kong No-myong, ROK ambassador to the Soviet Union, by Moscow correspondent Choe Pyong-chan in Moscow—date not given; recorded]

[Text] [Choe Pyong-chan] You had witnessed the process of the establishment of ROK-Soviet diplomatic relations and you are now serving as the first ROK ambassador to the Soviet Union. I think you have particular emotion on the first anniversary of the establishment of ROK-Soviet diplomatic relations.

[Kong No-myong] Our country entered the United Nations this year, when we mark the first anniversary of the establishment of ROK-Soviet diplomatic relations. This is an important result of the northern diplomacy. Therefore, I am all the more emotional.

[Choe] What do you think has been achieved during the past year since the ROK and the Soviet Union established diplomatic relations?

[Kong] Last December's Moscow declaration clarified basic principles in maintaining bilateral relations. The investment guarantee agreement, the double-taxation prevention agreement, the aviation agreement, and various other agreements on economic relations were signed. Also, the fisheries agreement was signed this year. As a result, I think, a basic groundwork has been completed. We must carry out well our economic assistance program amounting to as much as $3 billion and must ensure that bilateral relations are further consolidated as a result.

[Choe] What problems do you think must be solved to strengthen ROK-Soviet relations?

[Kong] No important problem remains unsolved for now. We will extend valuable economic cooperation amounting to as much as $3 billion to this country. I hope projects that can remain valuable forever will be carried out. I also hope that our ROK businesses will contribute to the Soviet Union's national economy and greatly help to resolve its economic difficulties.

Seoul, EC Sign Intellectual Property Accord

SK2809035291 Seoul YONHAP in English 0253 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Brussels, Sept. 27 (YONHAP)—South Korea and the European Community signed an agreement on intellectual property rights Friday, obliging Korean drug companies to submit materials on clinical trials when they apply for patents from January 1995 to prevent the pirating of drugs.

In the pact, signed at the end of three days of talks in Brussels, the two sides also agreed to revive the EC generalized scheme of preferences (GSP) benefits for Korea suspended in 1988.

The period of patent protection for new medicines was set at six years and protection of international copyrights was fixed at the same level as U.S. copyrights.

The Korean delegation was led by Kim Yong-kyu, the Foreign Ministry's director general for trade, and Simon Nuttall, director for relations with China, Japan and the other Far East countries, led the EC team.

Korea will protect the patents of 350 medicines applied for by the EC since July 1987 until June 1997 and will send research members from the medicine industry to the EC for training, under the agreement.

The EC officials supported Korea's science and technology cooperation program with the EC.

With the protection of patents for new drugs, Korean-EC negotiations in trade and other fields are expected to progress more smoothly.

The problem of protecting patents for EC medicines in Korea has been a major bone of contention between the two sides as the EC demanded the same treatment as the United States and Korea insisted on limiting protection to selected items.

Korea promised to revise its laws so Korean drug companies submit materials from clinical trials when they apply for a patent.

The chief Korean delegate said the material requirement was inevitable because pirate production of medicines in Korea can no longer be tolerated and it will boost the research and development efforts of Korean drug companies.

The development of Korean-EC relations would be accelerated by settlement of the patent protection issue, he said.

The two sides will hold another meeting at the end of November in seoul to discuss the problem of market access.

EC To Grant Trade Preferences

SK3009100591 Seoul YONHAP in English 0906 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea's exports to the European Community are likely to find more slots next year, when they will again receive benefits under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), officials at the Economic Planning Board said Monday.

The EC generosity was agreed on after South Korea pledged, in a bilateral negotiation in Brussels over the weekend, to improve its medicine licensing system so that EC intellectual property rights are better protected, they explained.

Korea has been denied GSP benefits since 1988 on the grounds that it is not committed to the protection of intellectual property rights.

When the trade perks are restored in January, Korean goods will benefit from zero tariffs or substantial tariff cuts even below the level for nations with most-favored nation status, they said.

Under a bilateral accord signed Friday, Korean drug producers are required to submit materials on clinical trials when they apply for patents from January 1995 to prevent pirating.

UN Compensation for Gulf War Losses Sought

SK3009032191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0142 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Seoul, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea plans to ask the United Nations for 1,255 million U.S. dollars in compensation for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait last year, the Construction Ministry said Monday.

The U.N. Security Council has ruled Iraq responsible for every requital and said victimized nations may seek compensation for losses incurred between Aug. 2, 1990, and March 2, 1991.

The U.N. has decided to set up a compensation fund with money from the sale of Iraq's oil.

The ministry tallied construction charges due at 1.253 billion dollars and individual losses at 2.425 million dollars.

The compensation requested covers 1.203 billion dollars of damages to eight Korean firms in Iraq, 50 million dollars to five others in Kuwait and 2.425 million dollars to evacuate 970 Koreans.

According to the U.N. decision to begin with private damages, the government will first ask for private compensation of 2,500 dollars per person.

Japan Asks 'Understanding' for Role in UN Forces

SK3009123491 Seoul YONHAP in English 1212 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Tokyo, Sept. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—Japan on Monday asked for South Korea's understanding on its plans to dispatch Self-Defense Forces to the United Nations Peacekeeping Operation (PKO).

Japanese Vice Foreign Minister Hisashi Owada met with South Korean Ambassador to Japan O Chae-hui to explain the PKO bill currently under review by the Diet and asked for South Korea's understanding, officials here said.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party submitted the bill to the parliament Sept. 19 on dispatching the Self-Defense Forces to pave legal grounds to participate in the PKO.

The South Korean Government immediately put out a statement registering concern at Japan's military move. Japan held Korea under its colonial rule for 35 years (1910-1945) until the end of World War II.

Amb. O said his country understands Japanese efforts to fulfill its responsibility toward world peace within the United Nations.

He reiterated South Korea's concern, saying his country is concerned about the dispatch considering the historical past and asked for Japan's prudence in the matter.

Defector Says Kim Chong-il, Cohorts Now Ruling

SK2809042091 Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean 26 Sep 91 p 5

[First installment of article entitled: "Kim Yong-hwan, Former Interpreter for Kim Il-song and High-Ranking North Korean Diplomat, Speaks"]

[Text] North Korea is already being run by Kim Chong-il. Kim Il-song, facing 80 years of age, is still firmly maintaining the position as a mental prop supporting the North Korean society based on the fame and charisma that he exclusively enjoys. However, he does not take part in practical working-level affairs.

Practice of Reporting

All "documents" reporting affairs of various domains including party, administration, and military are not submitted to President Kim Il-song without going through Kim Chong-il. Before Kim Il-song, Kim Chong-il reviews almost all reports on various domains except only a few economic sectors, including major agricultural policy, and diplomatic affairs with Japan and China. He then makes decisions and formulates policies based on these reports.

I know a case of government officials being scolded by Kim Chong-il during the period from 1985 to 1986 in connection with the Foreign Ministry report system. During this period, low-level officials of the Foreign Ministry, startled by telephone calls from the Kumsusan Assembly Hall (presidential palace), reported every move and activity of the head of a state who was visiting North Korea. Knowing this later, Kim Chong-il gave them a severe scolding.

Since that time, it became a usual practice that all reports from all offices and organizations should go through Kim Chong-il.

Having received reports, Kim Chong-il writes "for approval in the presidential palace" on only limited matters, and forwards them to President Kim Il-song. Thus, he personally decides yes and no for nearly all matters.

Kim Chong-il already seized control of the Worker's Party in the late seventies. Since the early eighties, he began to hold real power over diplomatic affairs, the party Central Committee which is the kernel organization of power, the Ministry of People's Armed Forces, and the Ministry of Public Security. On the anniversary of the founding of the People's Armed Forces on 25 April 1985, Kim Chong-il upgraded the ranks of commanders of the army's special brigades including snipers' brigade and light infantry brigade from Colonel to Major General. Prompted by this, the Army has turned into "Kim Chong-il's army."

All politicians and government officials in North Korea are being turned into supporters of Kim Chong-il with the feeling of "looking up at the rising sun instead of looking down at the sinking sun." Thus, Kim Chong-il's position as the inheritor of power has become firm.

Turning into "Kim Chong-il's Army"

Senior officials of the first generation of the revolution, including O Chin-u, minister of People's Armed Forces, Paek Hak-nim, minister of public security, and Choe Kwang, chief of General Staff, have already begun to behave like dotards. They are merely enjoying the easy-going life of old age. The idea that they may act against the will of the two Kims cannot be imagined. They merely want to take hold of present positions, such as third rank in power, chief of General Staff and the like, which enable them to enjoy a peaceful easy-going life and pleasure.

If Kim Chong-il is called practically the first man in power, the second man is Chang Song-taek, the powerful supporter of Kim and a real possessor of power. Chang is called one of the "pair of the carriage" who control North Korea. Chang is Kim Il-song's son-in-law and husband of Kim Kyong-hui, Kim Chong-il's only blood sister.

Chang is so deeply trusted by Kim Chong-il that Kim Chong-il once said "you are the only one who I can rely on and trust." Chang is the director of the investigation office of the three revolutions and director of a department of the party Central Committee. Chang is called "Comrade Director Chang" and is active on the first line of politics on behalf of Kim Chong-il who carries out only "palace politics." Chang's influence is matchlessly powerful. The one who led the 13th Pyongyang youth and student festival held in August 1989 is none other than Chang Song-taek.

Kim Chong-il's trust in Chang was eloquently revealed by the fact that Kim recommended Chang for the then vacant post of minister of public security last June. However, Chang was not appointed to this post due to Kim Il-song's opposition which was expressed in his remark, "the Ministry of Public Security is too ambitious."

Another person who attracts people's attention as a close associate of Kim Chong-il is Kye Ung-tae. Kye, senior politician ranking ninth in power, presently holds the position of the party's secretary in charge of security affairs. Under Kim Chong-il's directive, he controls the Ministry of People's Armed Forces and Ministry of Public Security, the two dominant surveillance organizations in North Korea, while playing the absolute role in building and maintaining the foundation of Kim Chong-il's power.

The kernel organizations of power in North Korea are the department of organization and guidance; the department of propaganda and agitation; the department of the three revolutions team works and the administrative department. Among them, the backbone organization functioning as Kim Chong-il's hands and feet is the department of organization and guidance.

The department of organization and guidance, which Kim Chong-il personally heads, has 25 deputy directors under Kim Chong-il, and controls and manages overall politics in North Korea. Each deputy director exercises almost exclusive power and personally manages the works of his sector. Thus, we may say that controlling these 25 figures means ruling all of North Korea.

O Kuk-yol, director of civil defense department of the party Central Committee who is called "a rising star" and Kim Kwang-chin, vice Chief of the General Staff, are also Kim Chong-il's close bodyguards. O Kuk-yol, Kim Chong-il's classmate at Mangyongdae Academy, maintained close amicable relations with Kim even while "going against each other" many times on the road of life. O Kuk-yol had had such bad relations with O Chin-u as to "avoid even exchanging greetings when they encountered in the hallway" in 1987, and thus he was dismissed from the post of chief of the General Staff as the result of secret strife with O Chin-u. However, he is one of the real power holders who may replace O Chin-u when O dies. Kim Kwang-chin is expected to be chief of the General Staff replacing Choe Kwang. Thus, when Kim Chong-il's era opens, these two figures will be the "two great mountain ranges" who will lead the military and will remain loyal to Kim Chong-il.

Kye Ung-tae Controls the Ministry of People's Armed Forces

Although Kim Chong-il is exercising enormous power, this fact has not been widely known to the general public. As one may sense from Kim Chong-il's short-stature, he has no such dignity as his father, Kim Il-song. When one takes a straight look at him, one will notice his horrible hard eyes. Thus, the "working-level functionaries" following Kim Chong-il look like a mouse before a cat. He is objectively appraised as having considerable talents in music and arts. He hates contact with the people so much as to vacate the entire plant when he goes there for giving "working-level guidance" to the plant.

Trust of the general residents in Kim Il-song is beyond people's imagination. The North Korean people firmly believe that Kim Il-song is their benefactor who liberated the nation from the Japanese imperialists, who led the Korean war to victory and who provided them with a "rich" life. Kim Il-song frequently visits the homes of common residents, and asks, "Is your quilt warm enough?" "Is your room warm enough?" and the like, and he even eats dinner with them. Such a political gesture by Kim Il-song gives a deep impression to general residents so as to even shed tears of deep emotion. This is not a show but is genuine.

* Kim Pyong-il's Political Prospects Described

* Potential Rival of Kim Chong-il

912C0270A Seoul PUKHAN in Korean
No 7, Jul 91 pp 84-97

[Article by Yu Yong-ok, public administration professor at Hansong University: "Kim Pyong-il, a Factor in North Korea's Power Succession"]

[Text] Kim Pyong-il, a snag in the North Korean succession drama...Who is he? A man of open personality with no scandal about women and very sociable; an elite with an excellent command of French and Chinese languages and a top student in the past...The following is an analysis focusing on Kim Pyong-il, the subject of speculation when in the post of director of the Security Bureau of the Ministry of People's Armed Forces that he would eventually come to control the military.

Speculations vary as to the present state of North Korea and how it will change in the future. Experts predict that the Kim Il-song to Kim Chong-il father-to-son succession will not be an entirely smooth course, for Kim Chong-il lacks charisma, the thing Kim Il-song has as the result of the cult of personality built on his alleged role in the anti-Japanese struggle. Nevertheless, the whole world, not to mention North Korea, regards it as a fait accompli that Kim Chong-il will be the successor. Analysts once pointed to the possibility of a military coup in North Korea; however, the dominant view today seems to be that Kim Chong-il's influence over the military is as stable as in any other area. The prevailing opinion, therefore, is that forces of the Kim Il-song to Kim Chong-il succession line continue to be in control in North Korea and that the trend will remain unchanged in the future. Then, one may ask: "Is there no rival force at all who can match Kim Chong-il?" Stating my conclusion first, support of Kim Pyong-il, according to information I have, is widespread among North Korean intellectuals and the young elite in the military, except that it remains invisible due to the peculiar characteristics of the North Korean society. Therefore, Kim Pyong-il is very likely to rise as a potential anti-establishment rival to Kim Chong-il and a serious threat to him in the future. While it is a fact that Kim Chong-il's presence as Kim Il-song's successor is seen as decisive among the North Korean masses, it is felt that Kim Pyong-il is a factor that cannot be ignored. Then, who is Kim Pyong-il, the man favorably viewed by people of certain strata in North Korea although they are limited in number? The purpose of this article is to answer this question.

In February this year, I visited Bulgaria via the Soviet Union for research on communist bloc nations. One day during that visit, the ROK ambassador to Bulgaria visited me to introduce a certain Mr. Yi, a former student from Pyongyang who became skeptical about the North Korean system and sought asylum. The ambassador invited me and Mr. Yi to an embassy dinner the next day. Conversations during the dinner touched upon

Kim Pyong-il, the current North Korean ambassador to Bulgaria. The ROK ambassador said that since he had been seeing Kim Pyong-il frequently at formal functions, he proposed a few times to the North Korean ambassador that they meet separately. Each time, Kim Pyong-il turned down the offer by saying "We will be seeing each other frequently once reunification is achieved...." Listening to the story, I became newly interested in the person of Kim Pyong-il. I also had an opportunity to discuss the overall situation in North Korea with Mr. Yi for three days. Needless to say, our discussion covered, among other things, Kim Pyong-il. According to the ROK ambassador and Mr. Yi, Kim Pyong-il is affable and smooth-mannered. While in North Korea, he had gained support among members of a significantly large group, mainly of young officers, during the more than a decade he spent in the military service. Generally, he is a popular figure. For this reason, they said, Kim Chong-il, viewing Kim Pyong-il as very burdensome, has continued to assign him to overseas duties since the 1980's to prevent his advance at home. Comments by the two persons reminded me of what I had heard about Kim Pyong-il when I visited Beijing in 1970. There I met a Mr. Kim, a graduate of Kim Il-song University, for about two hours at the Heping Hotel. He told me a similar story about Kim Pyong-il. Then, one may ask "What kind of person is Kim Pyong-il who is Kim Il-song's other son and Kim Chong-il's half brother?" To analyze and comprehend the meaning and gravity of what Kim Pyong-il has as a person, let us first take a look at the history of Kim Il-song and his family and relatives who make up the Kim Il-song dynasty and at the same time examine how the Kim Il-song to Kim Chong-il succession has been structured. North Korea unofficially designated Kim Chong-il as successor to Kim Il-song at a secret meeting of party leaders in September 1973. The following seven years were spent building a power base for Kim Chong-il, then the succession plan was officially announced at the sixth party congress in October 1980. Thus officially began the program of the father-to-son succession virtually unprecedented in modern states, including communist states. Seemingly responsible for this phenomenon in North Korea is the deep awareness on the part of Kim Il-song that in almost all communist countries the course of power succession had never been a smooth one. For instance, in the Soviet Union, Khrushchev, who took over after Stalin died in 1953, launched a sweeping de-Stalinization campaign. It was something Kim Il-song could not be unconcerned about. He must eventually have decided to set his son up to be his successor as a means to forestall any anti-Kim Il-song movement or other upheavals that might come after his death. Furthermore, in China, after Mao Zedong died in 1976, pragmatists led by Deng Xiaoping launched an anti-Mao movement similar to the de-Stalinization campaign in the USSR, which undoubtedly had the effect of bolstering Kim Il-song's determination for the father-to-son succession. The alleged decision of the Kim Il-song to Kim Chong-il succession was first reported by Japan's KYODO on 25 February 1977. The KYODO report was based on moves of Chongnyon in Japan. At the time, as far as Chongnyon was concerned, the succession plan was a fait accompli; it had received instructions from Pyongyang about it. At any rate, after the succession plan became official in 1980, Kim Chong-il earnestly embarked on building his power base. First of all, in an effort to strengthen the ideological backing, all the propaganda media were mobilized, starting 1982, to publish—in the name of Kim Chong-il—"On the Chuche Ideology," "About the Leader" and other theses and books to justify the father-to-son succession. Also, extensive purges were carried out against those who opposed the hereditary succession. In this process, such leading figures as Kim Tong-kyu, former vice president and party Political Committee member, and Chang Chong-hwan, vice minister of People's Armed Forces, were eliminated from the party center or vanished from sight in about October 1977. Kim Chol-man, first deputy chief of general staff of the People's Army, and Choe Chae-u, Political Bureau candidate member and vice premier, met a similar fate in about September 1982. Kim Chong-il continued to purge from the top echelons of power those who were black-listed as a threat, even members of the Kim Il-song clan. He thus demoted or eliminated Kim Song-ae, the second wife of Kim Il-song and his stepmother; Kim Pyong-il, Kim Song-ae's son and his half brother; Kim Kwang-hyop and Kim Song-kap, his maternal uncles; and even Kim Yong-chu, his uncle. In this connection, it is necessary to take a more detailed look at why and how those members of the Kim Il-song clan were eliminated.

Kim Song-ae, after her marriage to Kim Il-song, became vice chairman of the Korean Democratic Women's Union [KDWU] in 1965, a member of the party Central Committee in 1970, and chairwoman of KDWU in 1971. She was elected to the fifth Supreme People's Assembly in 1972. Despite these positions she ostensibly held, her ranking in the party actually went down from the 23d at the time of the fifth party congress in 1970 to the 105th at the sixth party congress in 1980, the year the Kim Chong-il succession arrangement was officially established. NODONG SINMUN stopped carrying photographs of her receiving foreign envoys as North Korea's first lady. Also, Kim Kwang-hyop—Kim Song-ae's elder brother who during the Japanese colonial days led a unit of the anti-Japanese allied forces in Manchuria together with Kim Il-song and Choe Hyon—was purged at the fifth party congress in 1970. Meanwhile, Kim Yong-chu—Kim Il-song's younger brother who had been thought to be one of the possible successors to Kim Il-song until the early 1970's—was dismissed as vice premier in April 1975, signaling his fall from public posts. Later, it was learned that he had been black-listed as a figure on Kim Song-ae's side and was ousted as the result. Lastly, Kim Pyong-il has been assigned to overseas duties for most of the time since 1981, his activities at home virtually restricted. I will refer to this point again later in this article. Meanwhile, the North Korean economy, deteriorating since about 1975, has gone from bad to worse in recent years. The failure of economic policies based on the so-called chuche ideology pushed the light industry in particular to the verge of collapse. The recent cutback on crude oil from the Soviet Union and the food shortage have plunged the economy into a dire quagmire. The problem is that domestically, the economic slump virtually coincided with Kim Chong-il's emergence on the political front following his designation as the successor. In addition to his responsibility for the economic failure, Kim Chong-il continued to make errors playing a leading role in the terrorist explosion incident in Burma [against visiting ROK Government officials] and the explosion-murder incident at the U.S. Cultural Center in Taegu, deepening North Korea's isolation and bringing on skepticism about his leadership and ability to govern. Thus, of the figures belonging to the Kim Il-song clan, Kim Il-song's younger brother Kim Yong-chu and his brothers-in-law Kim Kwang-hyop and Kim Song-kap were already eliminated. In this situation, it is necessary for us to pay attention to Kim Pyong-il, Kim Chong-il's half brother. In North Korea, however, customarily no personal details are made public of any specific persons, seemingly for the reason of its unique socialism based on collectivism or secretiveness. As a result, information on Pyongyang's leaders since liberation is mostly wrapped in mystery. Kim Pyong-il is no exception. However, at a time Kim Chong-il's ability to govern has become a subject of skepticism, I feel that it is a meaningful thing to seek out and analyze facts about Kim Pyong-il—Kim Il-song's other son—popular among the leading military cadres in particular. So, let me try to portray Kim Pyong-il on the basis of data and information I have been able to put together.

Kim Il-song married his first wife, Kim Chong-suk, in 1939 and she gave him two sons and a daughter—Syu-ra, Yu-ra and Kyong-hui. The second son, Yu-ra, was drowned in a pond in the front yard of Kim Il-song's home in about 1947; the eldest son and the daughter are alive. The eldest son—with the Russian-style name of Syu-ra—is today's Kim Chong-il. Kim Chong-suk died of a transposed placenta while giving birth in 1949. After that, Kim Il-song married his present wife, Kim Song-ae, and had four sons—Kim Kyong-il, Kim Pyong-il, Kim Song-il, and Kim Ch'ong-il. It is also said that Kim Il-song and Kim Song-ae had three sons and one daughter between them or that they had one son and one daughter. I have not yet been able to verify these allegations.

Regarding Kim Pyong-il's birth year, some records put it as 1950 or 1951; based on a study of various documents and data, however, it seems more reliable—judging from the year he graduated from Kim Il-song University—that he was born in 1954 and graduated from the university in 1971. He finished the Kim Il-song Military Academy in September 1981. His first public appearance was in August 1988, when he was appointed ambassador to Hungary at the age of 34 and a photograph of his presentation of credentials to President Straub of the Hungarian Presidential Council was published. Of all the sons of Kim Il-song, Kim Pyong-il in that picture most resembles Kim Il-song in his younger days, in both look and physique. Unlike Kim Chong-il, Kim Pyong-il was a devoted student with no scandals about women. He was said to be the brightest of all the children of Kim Il-song. According to testimonies by North Korean defecters to the south, Kim Pyong-il is a handsome man about 173 centimeters tall, a bit potbellied and round-faced. He is in good health, cheerful and loves sports like table tennis, volleyball, wrestling and basketball and has an excellent command of English, Chinese and Japanese languages. After his graduation from Kim Il-song University, he completed the infantry command and staff training courses at the Kim Il-song Military Academy, with relatively superior records and words of commendation from instructors. While other students shared rooms, 20 of them per room, Kim Pyong-il occupied one room all for himself and lived a high-class life with all sorts of conveniences; nevertheless, he tried to act as one of the students sharing the same life with them. Speaking of the meals, he had the same things for both staple and side dishes as other students had; however, the cooking was done separately by a woman cook in charge. According to a consensus among students, although dishes were the same in number, the cook used more spices to make them taste better for him. In the staying-out-of-barracks permitted weekly from 1330 each Saturday, he returned to the Presidential Mansion in a Benz of different color each week, with an escort. At the times of physical education, marching and camping, however, he underwent the training the same way as other students did, acting in no way to make himself conspicuous.

Following his graduation from the Kim Il-song Military Academy, Kim Pyong-il served in the military for a little more than 10 years in the capacity of infantry commander and corps staff officer. He had also served as assistant military attache to the embassy in Yugoslavia and as director of the Security Bureau of the People's Armed Forces Ministry until he was appointed ambassador to Hungary in August 1988. Kim Pyong-il's overseas stay began with his appointment in 1981 as assistant military attache to the embassy in Yugoslavia. During the 1981-83 stay in Yugoslavia, he was dispatched to Malta in about June 1982, ostensibly for education in English. After a brief return home the next year, he was appointed ambassador to Hungary in August 1988. However, in the wake of the democratization wave in Hungary, and in what appeared to be a move censuring him for an accord reached between the ROK and Hungary concerning exchange of diplomatic missions, Kim Pyong-il was called back to the home government, then was appointed ambassador to Bulgaria in December 1988. He continues to hold that post today. As I said earlier in this article, Kim Pyong-il, while in the military, had the confidence of young officers and was popular with them, a factor which prompted Japanese media to highlight him as a rival for Kim Chong-il. Based on a series of such trends and developments, Kim Pyong-il, for his part, may have presumably tried secretly to build a power base inside the military. Therefore, as for Kim Chong-il, it is possible that he views Kim Pyong-il as the strongest and most dangerous political rival. It is even more so when we look at the attitude of Kim Chong-il and the fact that he has kept Kim Pyong-il to overseas assignments since 1981 apparently with the intention of barring him from building a power base at home.

In addition, speculation that began circulating when Kim Pyong-il started his military life had it that he would control the North Korean military in the future, or that Kim Il-song would bring him up as a typical military leader different from Kim Chong-il who had embarked on a political career.

It is known that Kim Chong-il grew up with his half brothers under the stepmother after his real mother died when he was nine years old. Under such circumstances he, amid a deep longing for the late mother, could very well have developed a persecution complex and strong self-defense instinct, which one could imagine may have spawned a sort of animosity or wariness toward the stepmother and half brothers. Lending credence to this observation is the fact that Kim Chong-il practically demoted his stepmother, Kim Song-ae, and launched a campaign to idolize his real mother, Kim Chong-suk, as soon as he was designated to be the successor. He renamed Sinpa County, Yanggang Province—Kim Chong-suk's home county—as "Kim Chong-suk County"; Sinpa Girls Senior Middle School as "Kim Chong-suk Girls Senior Middle School"; and Hyesan No. 2 Teachers College as "Kim Chong-suk Teachers College." In addition, Kim Chong-il banned the use of "Madame" as the addressing title for Kim Song-ae, eliminated Kim Pyong-il's maternal uncles from positions of influence and virtually exiled even Kim Pyong-il. For all this, objectively speaking, it would simply be unthinkable for Kim Pyong-il to bear no ill-feeling toward Kim Chong-il.

Next, in an effort to foresee changes that could possibly occur in the course of the hereditary succession involving Kim Chong-il and Kim Pyong-il, let me quote portions concerning Kim Pyong-il from an account by Professor M, who obtained his information from North Korean students in Beijing and Korean residents in China who had visited North Korea.

In the wake of Kim Song-ae's demotion and the fall of Kim Song-kap and Kim Yong-chu as mentioned earlier, Kim Pyong-il was turned away at the door and not allowed to take part in his father's—Kim Il-song's—birthday celebrations, it is said. Lately, however, Kim Song-ae, who had not been seen in public events since 1972, began to be seen again. Also, as the economic slump, coinciding with the rise of Kim Chong-il since the mid-1970's, spawned skepticism about Kim Chong-il's ability to govern, Kim Pyong-il, currently ambassador to Bulgaria, began to draw attention. Furthermore, a certain professor, who is a graduate of Kim Il-song University, says that while visiting Pyongyang in about November last year, he strongly felt that Kim Il-song was taking back power that he had given Kim Chong-il. Meanwhile, many North Korean students in Beijing were of the opinion that North Korea will in the future shift to a political system that is essentially a constitutional monarchy similar to the one Japan has, with the Kim Il-song clan reigning but not ruling and with the prime minister in charge of government. If such testimonies and personal impressions are true, it can be said that North Korea is currently in the process of emerging from the changes since the mid-1970's marked by the shift of the center of power from the Kim Song-ae group to Kim Chong-il, and that power is swinging back to the side of Kim Song-ae and Kim Pyong-il. When put in this light, it is possible that Kim Pyong-il will surface as a figure with critical influence on North Korea's future course.

Furthermore, according to Professor M, the North Korean people regard Kim Il-song as something like God; they virtually have never thought about the "death of Kim Il-song." His death, coming sooner or later, is bound to throw them into a void and lethargy of the worst kind; the great confusion thus caused will result in major change in the North Korean political system, he predicts. I feel that Professor M's view is very reasonable. I might even add that Kim Pyong-il will emerge as a vital factor in the course of such change. A comparison between the two personalities, Kim Chong-il and Kim Pyong-il, from various angles could also add validity to this assessment.

Kim Chong-il grew up practically without feeling love for his father and he lost his mother at an early age. As a result, he developed intense hatred and distrust of seniors who would make him think of his father. He cohabited with a woman who resembled his real mother. A person of such an abnormal character, Kim Chong-il is known to unhesitatingly use impolite expressions to seniors. He was even been seen with his hands in his pockets when speaking to Kim Il-song, his father. Thus, he seems to have virtually nothing to impress people favorably. Such defects in his personality, along with his inability as seen in the successive policy failures, have caused him to have many opponents. This in return indirectly worked as a factor bringing on a wave of sympathy toward Kim Pyong-il, it can be said. It is even said that Kim Chong-il is secretly grooming his 14-year-old only son, Kim Chong-nam, to be his successor. In this connection, he is said to have ordered the institute of history—which was in charge of distorting history to help build the cult of personality for the Kim Il-song family—to collect or create systematically stories about Kim Chong-nam since his childhood and his gift as a potential successor to the throne. A shocking story indeed, although it is unlikely to come true! Judging from an attempt like this and from his attitude toward Kim Pyong-il to date, Kim Chong-il certainly views Kim Pyong-il as a strong rival; it is likely that he, suffering from a Kim Pyong-il neurosis, will continue to keep him in check. However, how long the check will continue remains a question. Depending on future developments surrounding the Korean peninsula, as well as changes in North Korea and in Kim Pyong-il's attitude, it seems impossible to rule out the possibility of Kim Song-ae and

Kim Pyong-il, and an anti-Kim Chong-il force they are said to represent, finding their way into the center of power.

In conclusion, for a correct forecast of the direction of change in North Korea, I find it necessary to have correct information and analyses about personalities who form the core of the North Korean power structure or will very likely be part of it in the future. In fact, the data and information currently available about Kim Chong-il—including those dealing with Kim Pyong-il and other figures—are extremely inadequate. Therefore, if we are to foresee the direction of future change in North Korea and to respond more actively and effectively, we should carry out careful and detailed analyses and research about key figures involved.

In this article, I made a study of Kim Chong-il's direct family, with emphasis on Kim Pyong-il who has again been drawing attention lately. Due to the limited data and information available, however, I could not but put off a more detailed analysis and closer examination of facts until some time in the future. I only wish that this article will serve to stress our urgent concern and the pressing need for research in this area, because research on key North Korean figures is closely related to the policy of reunification or peace of the Korean peninsula.

* Testimony on Kim Pyong-il

912C0270B Seoul PUKHAN in Korean No 7, Jul 91 pp 86-97

[Article by Sin Chung-chol, a North Korean military defector and currently a lieutenant colonel in the ROK Army: "The Kim Pyong-il I Met"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted]

I met Kim Pyong-il for the first time on 30 August 1978 at the entrance ceremony at the Kim Il-song Military Academy in Mangyongdae-tong, Mangyongdae District, Pyongyang City.

Kim Pyong-il then held the rank of major (he came to the academy while serving as a battalion commander in the General Security Bureau). My impression of him was very favorable.

He was a tall, handsome, 27-year-old youth who made a favorable impression on everyone he met.

Freshmen, regardless of age, thronged to him to shake his hand. Amid the crowd, he showed no signs of reluctance shaking hands with each student. On that day, I had the "happiness" of being assigned to the same unit with Kim Pyong-il. While many students wanted to be in the same unit with him, only I and 15 other students were selected to study together with Kim Pyong-il. Naturally, I was happy.

Thus began my personal relationship with Kim Pyong-il. My first opportunity for one-on-one contact with him came about two months later....

Kim Pyong-il loved sports. His table-tennis skill was of professional level.

One day at the siesta hour, when I was about to lie down on the bed, his aide (another student serving as aide) came to me and said "Comrade Kim Pyong-il wants to see you."

I changed my clothes in a hurry and followed to the table-tennis room on the third floor of No. 6 Building, where Kim Pyong-il was waiting for me.

When I came in the room, Kim Pyong-il said, "Sorry for bothering you at your siesta hour but I would be happy if you would show me your table-tennis skill, for I have heard much about it."

With a blush, I said "What you heard is not true. My table tennis is really amateurish." "Do not say it. Students are talking a lot about it, so I would like to learn a thing or two from you today."

I did my best that day but lost all four sets to him.

I vividly remember the way he burst out laughing during the game each time he saw me fall victim to his superb touch and make successive errors.

At the time he was 1.8 meters tall and weighed 81 kilograms. He usually spent all his siesta hours playing table tennis.

That deprived me of that precious after-lunch siesta-...Those days, we, the students, called the daily 90-minute nap a "health food" better than any known tonic.

I also remember that each time we met at the table-tennis room, he would first offer me a cigarette. It was always the filter-tipped "Yonggwang [Glory]" cigarettes from a white, gold-rimmed pack.

The taste of those cigarettes was so good that my mouth begins watering even now when I think of it.

When I recall the life I shared with him for more than three years, I find that it was not necessarily filled with fond memories after all. It was a Saturday (the Hygiene Day: study hours end at noon and students spend the afternoon taking baths, washing clothes, having hair cuts, etc.). When we were cleaning the inside of the building, we heard a car honking on a narrow road on the hill behind No. 6 Building (a road leading to the quarters of the principal of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary School). We all looked out and saw a black Benz parked there. A few minutes later, Kim Pyong-il and his student aide came out of the building and got in the car. Students watched them enviously. In a way I envied them myself but at the same time was asking myself, "Why is it that some people are allowed to enjoy all that the luxury, the deluxe car and everything, while others cannot even afford a bus ride when they need it?"

Every Saturday from that time on until graduation day, a Benz (of a different color each time) came, honked three times, then picked up Kim Pyong-il and left. Thus, Kim Pyong-il stayed out of the school each weekend. Usually he went to one of the villas near Pyongyang, such as Chamo-san Castle Villa, Kim Il-song's super-palatial villa, or Lake Yonpung Villa (sometimes called "Reception Center" or "Palace"). However, in those days, with regard to the way Kim Il-song and Kim Pyong-il lived, I somehow gave no thought to the fact that the fruits of the toil of the 22 million North Korean people are monopolized by the privileged handful. It was after I came over to the south to live as a free man in the Republic of Korea that I began to think about the true values of humanity and realized that the kind of day-to-day life Kim Il-song and Kim Pyong-il were living is a sharp departure from what the true, normal human life should be. I experienced various shocking things in those days I was with Kim Pyong-il; however, since I can hardly describe them all here, let me just talk about one of them for now.

One day in 1979, a little over a week before the summer vacation was to begin, I heard this story from Kim Pyong-il on a bench in the park before No. 6 Building. He said: One day in early spring in 1967—I was then a third-grade student in a middle school—the whole family was there enjoying a family time. At one point, Our Leader put me in his lap, although I was no longer a baby, and said to me: "Pyong-il, you will grow to be a good military cadre." At the time I was too little to know what he really meant by that. As I grew, however, I began to realize what he had in his mind, little by little...Listening to Kim Pyong-il, I realized that Kim Il-song had already been working on the succession scheme.

What I felt then was that Kim Il-song had long been planning to hand political power to Kim Chong-il, the eldest son born of his first wife (Kim Chong-suk, deceased in 1949), and military power to Kim Pyong-il, born of his second and present wife (Kim Song-ae), in the hopes of having them carry on the dictatorial system he had built intact. These days I keenly feel that what I thought then is coming true now.

Time flies indeed, for it is already a full 10 years since I parted with him, while the memory of those school days I shared with him is still vivid in my mind. The memory brings me heartache rather than nostalgia, however; it is painful to think that his days under Kim Il-song's care must be changing him into another dictator.

In the North Korean society, no one would be unaware that every person, absolutely every person, has to obey the intent and directive of Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il to survive, that otherwise he or she has to perish.

Kim Pyong-il cannot be an exception. It is as clear as day that after five or 10 years, Kim Pyong-il would no longer be the same informal person I knew.

I only wish I could meet him again someday in the distant future as two persons reminiscing of the old days who are proud of having lived a true and honest life.

* Kim Pyong-il Interview With TRUD

912C0270C Seoul PUKHAN in Korean
No 7, Jul 91 pp 95-97

[Text] In an interview with the Bulgarian daily, TRUD, his first with a foreign newspaper, Kim Pyong-il expressed his view on the North-South high-level talks, prospects of the North Korea-Japan normalization talks, and the economic situation in North Korea. The following is part of the interview:

[TRUD] What kind of result do you expect the North-South prime ministers talks to produce in the near future?

[Kim Pyong-il] The main issue at the North-South prime ministers talks that began last year is to explore ways and means to end the military and political hostilities between the two sides.

Our position is that removing the danger of confrontation is the only way to pave the road for reunification.

To put it more graphically, we must bury our hidden hatchets and free ourselves from the fear of attack from the South or the North.

[TRUD] All the socialist countries are now required to pay the international market-level prices for the crude oil they import from the Soviet Union, in hard currency. In this connection, do you have any difficulty with crude oil imports from the Soviet Union?

[Kim] Although the issue prompted us to explore change in our economic strategy, crude oil has not become the source of any serious threat to us.

The reason is that our country abounds in hydropower and other resources.

[TRUD] The joint venture law adopted by North Korea means that the North Korean economy has begun to open up, does it not?

[Kim] We have begun altering our economic policy in our way but there will be no plan for any quick reform.

It is because we think that changes should be on a gradual basis considering realities.

[TRUD] Would you comment on the prospects of the current Japan-North Korea normalization talks?

[Kim] Japan sent representatives of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Socialist Party to North Korea to apologize for what it had done in the past.

It appears that the talks will go on smoothly in the future and I believe that the solidarity of Asian nations, including the normalization between us and Japan, will contribute to peace in the world.

[TRUD] What do you have to say about North Korea's economic realities?

[Kim] Our goal is to build a self-dependent national economy. In doing so, we lay its basis on our own technology, resources and raw materials and on technicians and specialists educated in our country.

North Faces Dilemma Over Nuclear Development

SK0110033991 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 1 Oct 91 p 6

[Editorial: "North Korea's Nuclear Project"]

[Text] North Korea faces a great dilemma in its nuclear weapons development program. International pressure continues to mount and U.S. President Bush's decision last week to remove all tactical nuclear arms from Europe and South Korea was an unexpected blow to Pyongyang's scheme to link the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] inspection issue with what it called "denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Bush has called for matching actions by the Soviet Union and other nuclear powers, but judging from the unilateral nature of the U.S. initiatives and from the nearly unanimous positive reactions from world capitals, the process of removal cannot but be swift. And North Korean leaders now have to review their whole strategy rather expeditiously.

North Korea has made too great an investment out of its meager resources over the past several years to want to scrap the project. But maintaining it would mean giving up the current approaches to the West, not to mention risking forceful international action, possibly under a U.N. resolution.

Pyongyang has pursued its own nuclear development chiefly from a lack of confidence in the northern nuclear umbrella as the Soviet Union and China have become increasingly revisionistic. It also was a military extension of the "Chuche" ideology which was originally contrived as an idea of political independence though it added later some humanistic sophistication.

North Korea's recent acceleration of the program reflects a sense of desperation resulting from two major developments: the crumbling of communism in Europe on one hand and the rapidly growing gap in the economic power of the North and South on the other. Unfortunately, the paranoiacs in Pyongyang are seeking the ultimate means of survival in a couple of atomic bombs.

To dissuade Pyongyang from the costly project not only requires international pressure but sincere and effective approaches from the southern side of the Korean peninsula that build up mutual confidence and alleviate a sense of siege on the part of the northerners. In this connection, the government is believed to be working on some fresh initiatives.

The Seoul government had maintained that the signing of the nuclear safeguards agreement by North Korea and the presence of any nuclear arms in South Korea were two separate questions. The latter issue, according to the government, should be dealt with in a broader framework of nuclear arms deployment in the region, including those of the Soviet Union and China.

President No Tae-u, returning from his U.N. trip, which has marked the culmination of his "northern policy," indicated he would take up the North Korean nuclear issue in direct dialogue with Pyongyang. He said the nuclear arms question would be a major item on the agenda of the forthcoming South-North prime ministers' talks in Pyongyang later this month.

In the meantime, Korean and U.S. officials are expected to formulate a comprehensive arms control and disarmament program for the Korean peninsula through the annual Security Consultative Meeting, which is scheduled to be held in November in Seoul. President No had already included in his U.N. address a set of steps to rid the peninsula of the decades of military tension.

A golden opportunity seems to be approaching for Korea to attain a durable peace but it all depends now on how Pyongyang leaders perceive the wave of change on the global scene and whether they see the futility of their isolationist scheme. They should realize that their survival will be better guaranteed not by any primitive atomic weapons but through directing limited resources toward improving the economy and the people's well-being.

Anyway, North Korean Premier Yon Hyong-muk who arrived in New York last week and was caught unprepared by the Bush proposal will have to make a major alteration to his U.N. speech text. Both Yon and his superiors in Pyongyang should be aware that what is required now is a fundamental change in their national objective, not just replacing some part of the prepared address.

* Family Life, Communist Indoctrination in North

912C0272A Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 3 Jul 91 p 9

[Article by reporter Yu Yong-ku: "Mothers Responsible for Communist Education"]

[Text] The documentary film of celebrating the 40 years of North Korean regime, which was produced by a Polish film maker and was broadcast on TV recently, was shocking because of the North Korean citizens' collectivism that is as strong as their admiration for Kim Il-song.

The North Korean-style collectivism can be explained from various viewpoints, and it is even possible to look at it through an individual "household," which is the basic unit of the political and social structure.

North Korea has transformed the society itself into a "great household of revolutionary socialism" and has cried out for the solidarity of the leader, the party and the masses (the general public).

According to various data and visitors' reports, nobody—except old people—seems to be home during the daytime because housewives are absent and children are at day-care centers or kindergartens.

In addition, children become enlisted in organizations, such as the Boy Scouts and the Socialist Working Youth League, in which they experience the North Korean-style collectivism and the process of socialization. This enables children to become critical of individual activities of family members, and it could create a difficult atmosphere for establishing a traditional patriarchism.

It has been known thus far that in North Korea, all households become exposed to society by the "five household propagandist system," in which an everyday life becomes a public life and privacy is hard to keep.

However, many visitors have confirmed that North Korea, too, has the household system that resembles our traditional patriarchism.

Let us take a look at the legal and systematic aspects and the reality of the North Korean households.

Laws and System

In North Korea, there is no such statute as the Family Rights Law. Instead, its constitution includes a provision for households.

Article 63 of the 1972 socialist constitution states clearly, "The government protects marriage and household. The government shall be deeply concerned in solidifying the households, which are the cells of the society."

In North Korea, a household is understood as a unit of joint life that is based on marriage and blood relatives. Thus, it recognizes a household as a basic unit of social structure.

Accordingly, a household is defined as a functional unit that gives birth to children, that supplies labor, that raises and educates children, and that establishes a joint economic life.

North Korea especially emphasizes "mother's responsibility to indoctrinate communism to children."

In particular, the labor-centered policy places a high priority on eliminating "the bad habit of trying to lead a fast life" and "the idea of self-interest."

Professor Nam In-suk of Hyosong Women's University, an expert in women's studies who has visited North Korea, said, "Engrossed in carrying out a household revolution, North Korea is concentrating its energy on 'creation of red household' through the five household responsibility system, which collects information on personal interest, knowledge, character, ideological attitude, and all movements." It is said that a party activist is assigned to every five households and the activist is given the authority to guide the entire life of each household, such as conducting a family meeting for each household.

In early years, marriage required only the matrimonial application and approval by the concerned People's Committee. Since then, the "provision for registration of citizen's identity" (Article 10) was promulgated on 5 March 1955, which required the applicants to go through registration procedures.

In other words, in the early years, divorce was possible either by mutual agreement or by court decision; but since then, the system of divorce by mutual agreement was abolished under the Cabinet Decision No. 24 of 8 March 1956, and divorce became possible only by court decisions.

However, a pregnant woman or a woman with a child under one year old cannot file a lawsuit for divorce even if she has a legitimate reason.

Besides, in North Korea, the monogamy system prohibits men from keeping a secret mistress, and prostitution is rare because both licensed and unlicensed prostitutions and kisaeing [professionally trained female entertainers] are completely banned.

Since 1947, North Korea abolished the family register system, which symbolized kinship and lineage.

In the mid-1950's, the policy of agricultural collectivization was launched. Since then, the women who were engaged in farming for their own household joined cooperatives as independent workers to participate in the collective labor.

As a result, the patriarchal rights within a household weakened, and the status of women and the younger generation became elevated, and the organizational life made women more socially visible.

In this process, day-care centers and kindergartens increased inevitably.

Regarding women, the 1972 socialist constitution stipulates as follows: "Women and men have equal status and rights in the society. The government shall take special care of mothers and children through various policies, such as a guaranteed maternity leave, reduced work hours for mothers with several children (i.e., a mother with three or more children works six hours and is paid for eight hours), and expansion of the network of maternity hospitals, day-care centers and kindergartens. The government shall free women from the heavy burden of household work and shall guarantee various conditions for them to join the work force of the society."

Of course, such a constitutional provision is closely related to the household system.

The law does not force women to send their children to day-care centers. However, in order to qualify for the 700 grams of rationed food per person per day, the residents must go to work, and those who do not have somebody to take care of their children must send the children to day-care centers and kindergartens.

To help reduce the household burdens for women, the government has placed a high priority on policies not only for establishing the day-care centers but also for providing modern kitchen equipment (e.g., refrigerators, washing machines, electric rice cookers, and sewing machines) while concentrating on the establishment of convenient facilities, such as food processors, community (take-out) kitchens, family diners, and chemical laundry shops (laundromats).

The Reality

As pointed out earlier, North Korean households are closely connected with society, and they try to turn the society into a household.

In the areas of women's social activities and raising the children with social consciousness, there is a special emphasis on the ideological aspects of households.

However, as confirmed by most visitors to North Korea, North Korean women seen to suffer from hardships arising from the traditional family relationship under the patriarchal system.

Since the 1970's, most stores and restaurants have been managed and operated by women, and the number of female employees in the scientific, cultural and health-care organizations has increased rapidly.

It is known that women represent 80 percent of the teachers in elementary schools.

Although women have made such a remarkable entry into the society, women are still responsible for the household chores and rearing the children. Thus, women's "double burden" is in a serious condition.

In the North Korean Report, Mr. Cho Chae-kil, a journalist in the United States wrote, "There was not a lot of sexual discrimination in [North Korean] households, and it seemed that the concept of the head of a family or household was unnecessary." He added, "However, the tradition of patriarchal system and the idea of men-first-and-women-last seemed to remain deeply rooted."

On North Korean family life, a special correspondent of CHUNGANG ILBO, Yi Chan-sam reports as follows: "When [North Korean] women were asked why husbands and wives quarrel, most of them said, 'The main reason is the men's neglect.'"

They complain that despite both husband and wife having jobs, North Korean women are responsible for taking children to day-care centers and for doing other chores.

Visitors report, however, that unlike South Korea, conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is rare because the Women's Union will intervene if the mother-in-law is too hard on the daughter-in-law.

Special correspondent Yi Chan-sam, too, reports that housewives working on handicrafts at the Pyongyang Handicraft Institute said "North Korean women support parents-in-law because a big family system is favored, and coworkers envy the women in such a situation because they do not have to take children to day-care centers and the mother-in-law prepares dinner."

In North Korea, it is emphasized that day-care centers and kindergartens not only help reduce women's burdens of raising the children but also let the children experience a group life instead of inspiring a selfish mind.

However, many people point out that kindergartens and day-care centers ruin the "pleasure of family environment." They also criticize that kindergartens and day-care centers have become the "birthplace of brainwashing and indoctrinating" a conditioned-response type of loyalty to Kim Il-song and Kim Chong-il, in which the children repeat, "Thank you, fatherly leader."

Professor Nam In-suk says, "I have heard that because North Korean women take their children to day-care centers and therefore have no experience raising the children at home, they neither understand the atmosphere of a family environment nor do they know how to raise children."

Regarding divorce, Professor Nam points out, "In general, divorce is viewed as a disgrace in society. If a husband wants to divorce, the divorce is usually approved regardless of his wife's intent. But it is difficult for a wife to divorce if her husband is not willing to divorce."

When a divorce is settled, the couple's property is divided equally because it is considered community property, and the person who does not receive the right to care for the couple's children is held responsible for the child-care expenses.

In North Korea, too, most widowers remarry, but most widows tend to be faithful to their late husbands.

Alongside, the family register system, which is an important part of the traditional family relations, was abolished, and the degree of kinship is limited to the sixth degree. According to Mr. Cho Chae-kil, "In North Korea, the term 'family origin' has disappeared, and nobody knows what it means."

As the partition of the Korean peninsula persists, it becomes difficult to search for separated family members, and it will certainly become more difficult to identify relatives through a genealogical table.

North, South Foreign Ministers Talk Briefly

SK0110020091 Seoul YONHAP in English 0030 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] United Nations, Sept. 30 (YONHAP)—The South and North Korean foreign ministers exchanged views on inter-Korean cooperation and reunification for seven minutes Monday during a lunch hosted by U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok told reporters that he had agreed with his North Korean counterpart Kim Yong-nam to exchange views again if there was an opportunity.

Yi said he told Kim that North Korea should sign a nuclear safeguards accord at an early date and that Kim had said the two Koreas should share a single U.N. seat, revealing the wide gap between their positions.

A second encounter is expected Wednesday night at a reception hosted by the foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

They are expected to have a third meeting, either official or unofficial, before Yi leaves for home Saturday.

No Tae-u, Cabinet Meet To Discuss New Measures

SK0110073191 Seoul YONHAP in English 0645 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Seoul, Oct. 1 (YONHAP)—The cabinet met Tuesday in an extraordinary session to discuss follow-up measures to President No Tae-u's trips to the United Nations and Mexico and the U.S. cuts in nuclear weapons.

No directed his ministers to seek proper diplomatic and security measures in preparation for fast changes in the global situation as U.S. nuclear policy had taken a new form and South and North Korea had been admitted to the United Nations.

"The U.S. nuclear initiative will influence not only the security map of the Korean peninsula but of Northeast Asia. Therefore, the Defense Ministry must prepare progressive steps for military control based on military confidence-building between the two Koreas," No instructed the cabinet.

Every ministry should make diplomatic efforts in cooperation with Japan and European Community nations to make North Korea sign a nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency and accept international inspection of its nuclear facilities, he said.

No told the relevant ministries to take measures against the three-point unification formula—peace structure, military confidence-building and promotion of exchanges—that he proposed to the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 24.

Economic ministers were told to provide for trade, communication and passage between South and North Korea.

"South Korea can avoid attritional confrontation with North Korea outside the United Nations because of the realization that both Koreas are inside the United Nations, so we should reshape the diplomatic structure to improve South-North cooperation in the global body," he said.

Armed Forces Observe Anniversary, Ponder Future

SK0110033691 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 1 Oct 91 p 3

[Text] Observing its 43rd anniversary today, the Korean Armed Forces sees itself in a transition period because of the changing security environments in and around the Korean Peninsula.

With the U.S. policy to reduce its overseas military presence, the Korean Armed Forces is forced to, and willing to take greater role in the defense of South Korea on a gradual basis.

At the same time, it should also prepare for national reunification and set up a new defense formula aimed at arms reduction between Seoul and Pyongyang and at building a new defense formula after the reunification.

Beginning today, Korean troops replace a 2nd U.S. Infantry Division battalion in guarding the one-mile strip of the Demilitarized Zone south of Panmunjom.

It may be a small event, but it stands for the reduced U.S. military presence here and the greater role the Korean military should take.

The Korean side already took over in March the post of senior representative of the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission (UNCMAC), and will also take over the commander post of the Ground Component Command of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command late next year.

By the end of next year, Washington is to pull out 7,000 out of its 43,000 U.S. forces here, and negotiations are under way between Seoul and Washington on the second stage of a three-phase U.S. troops reduction.

It is not known as yet how many more U.S. troops would withdraw from here between 1993 and 1995, but what is certain is that the United States will maintain a minimum number of troops here.

Neither Seoul nor Washington wants overall withdrawal of the U.S. forces from South Korea. Even though the strategic or political intentions for maintaining the U.S. forces here may not be the same, both Korea and the United States feel the need for the presence of the U.S. forces here.

For the Korean Armed Forces, gradual reduction of the U.S. forces and its seeming role here implies the need for more military buildup or other preparations, at least until there is concrete signs for tension reduction or unification in the peninsula.

In this connection, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku has called for supply of 4.5 percent of GNP as defense budget for the coming three to four years, saying the coming years would constitute the period of last crisis in the Korean Peninsula.

In the mid-1990s, South and North Korea could begin arms reduction, a stepping stone for reunification, Yi has said.

It may be a paradox to say that Seoul needs to strengthen its military buildup for the coming years to help bring North Korea to the table for arms reduction talks, and as a part of such efforts, the ministry recently announced final selections of the $5.2-billion Korea Fighter Program which would introduce 120 F-16 fighters in coming years.

The Defense Ministry believes that military confrontation between South and North would continue till mid-1990s, and when North Korea accepts changes following the expected power transfer, the two sides could begin arms control.

When the nation achieves reunification in, say, the early 2000s, then it should cope with changed security environment, redefining potential threats, the ministry forecasts.

Given the need for mutual arms reduction or control, the Korean military is under careful pressure to cut its defense budget.

But the ministry, by recently leaking a "new defense project" for the future defense posture, implied the need for gradual increase of the defense budget for the time being.

Under the project the Defense Ministry considers reducing the troops from the current 650,000 to 500,000 and making them "elite forces" by providing them with advanced weaponry.

The "elite forces" would, needless to say, be aimed at "new potential threats" after national reunification.

But the problem is Pyongyang's traditional hostility toward the South, and Seoul would have difficulties in concluding arms reduction with the North, observers say.

The observers also say that U.S. President Bush's recent announcement on unilateral, sweeping cuts of nuclear arsenal would lead North Korea to give up its attempt to produce nuclear weapons and may also contribute to talks earlier than expected on arms reduction between Seoul and Pyongyang.

* NDP Criticized Over Internal Disarray

912C0287A Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 30 Jul 91 p 2

[Editorial: "We Are Disappointed at the New Democratic Party's Conditions"]

[Text] We are frustrated by the exposure of the New Democratic Party's miserable conditions. Why is it being so frowned at and why is it being put to shame? Is it not the primary opposition party that promised to struggle as a healthy restraining force and that pledged to become a rational alternative organization? The public has already been disappointed at the obscure and sluggish attitude of the monstrous government party DLP [Democratic Liberal Party]. That is why it is even more heartbreaking to watch the disgusting situation of the NDP [New Democratic Party].

The public had hoped that the NDP would learn a lesson from its defeat in the election of local assemblymen and that it would fight admirably well in the upcoming general election, election of the self-government heads, and presidential election. It is quite a betrayal and an immoral conduct to act like this and is contrary to the people's expectations. This is the time for the NDP to conduct a serious self-examination and concentrate its efforts on obtaining the public support, solidly and rationally. However, it is extremely deplorable to watch what is happening inside the NDP.

Of course, we are aware of the ill effects and counteraction resulting from NDP President Kim Tae-chung's attempt to run alone; but for the opposition group trying to correct his attitude, it would not be easy to justify its conduct. The object of the Political Development Research Association, which is headed by the vice chairman of the National Assembly, Cho Yun-hyong, is clearly to unify the opposition circle and to launch a people's party. Its object and justification are well-timed and acutely needed under today's political circumstances.

Nevertheless, Vice Chairman Cho and others have assailed President Kim. This is certainly not right. Although backdoor dealings are not an honorable thing to do, these are always justified somehow in the political arena. No matter how harsh the public criticism may be against the political circles and the politicians, the politicians themselves must always present the great cause and public interests. They are required to use the public indignation and the public opinion as the bases of their speech and conduct.

The underlying cause of the NDP's internal troubles and factional strife run counter to such common sense and rationality of politics in general. The question of giving and receiving money and other valuables in connection with the 1988 public nomination of assemblymen triggered the clash. Sure enough, how important is this question for the NDP, which is faced with other issues? Of course, any suspicious political funds must always be investigated. However, what is important in the dispute over political funds is the time and place of the incident.

Today, when the issue of time and location is excluded, raising such a question for private gains or to use it as a political tactic among the political factions only amplifies distrust against politics and politicians. Amid disputes over political funds, could any politician say, "I am innocent?" Thus, not only the good justification of the Political Development Research Association is fading but also its high ground is trembling.

In connection with the NDP's recent dispute over giving and receiving of money and other valuables, Vice Chairman Cho's behavior is also questionable. He has now threatened to reveal the secrets of political funds he learned about when he was working as President Kim's chief secretary. Observers say this casts doubts about his personality before he became a politician. Even if conflicts arise from political interests, we cannot consider it reasonable for him to take advantage of what he learned on the job as chief secretary in political dealings.

The NDP must listen to the public that asks the primary opposition party to have a healthy growth. It must also recognize the watchful eyes of the many citizens who support the justified opinions of the Political Development Research Association. That is why we are concerned over the NDP's internal troubles which even called for dismissal of Vice Chairman Cho. In particular, the dirty dispute over the political funds and the public nomination will only lead to public disappointment and criticisms. The low-keyed politics, such as personal criticisms and disclosure of irrationalities, will be shunned. We hope the NDP authorities will bring themselves face to face with greater and more rational problems.

Burma

Commander on Need for Unity in Defense Services

BK2909122191 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command, in the company of Colonel Nyunt Tin, deputy commander of the 11th Light Infantry Division; (?Garrison) Commander Col. Nyunt Han; and staff officers of the Yangon Military Command, toured the No. 1 Training Corps this morning and the Central Ordnance Depot later in the afternoon in order to inspect agricultural and livestock breeding activities and to give necessary instructions to soldiers and their dependents. [passage omitted]

During the tour, Commander Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt addressed a meeting on the prevailing situation in the country. The meeting was held at the Aung San Hall of the Central Ordnance Depot and attended by officers, soldiers, and dependents of units in the Indaing garrison area.

Explaining the situation, the commander said: During his inspection tours to study the livestock breeding and agricultural programs of the people, Lieutenant General Than Shwe, deputy commander in chief of the Defense Services and commander in chief of the Army, came up with the idea to earmark 1992 as the Year of the Economy. Because of this, this region must do its every best to make the idea a success.

As had been stated in the Announcement No. 1 of the Ministery of Home and Religious Affairs on 9 September, some political parties and public service personnel today are deceiving the nation.

At 2045 on 9 September, the BBC interviewed Sein Win, the leader of the parallel group in the jungle [National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma]. When the BBC asked whether Dr. Sein Win's government had the right to legitimacy, Sein Win answered: I am certain that our organization is only one with the legal representation because we were given the mandate by the majority of the elected representatives at secret conferences held in Yangon and Mandalay. We are therefore a legal government. When the BBC asked: Are you, U Sein Win and colleagues, still members of the NLD [National League for Democracy]? Sein Win said: Yes, we are still members of the National League for Democracy.

Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said: There are people in our country who believe that only news presented by the BBC is true. Now, I want to ask these people how they would take that report. If those people believe the report is true, how then are we to take the statement issued by the NLD representatives that they have nothing to do with the Sein Win Government. If we take all the factors into consideration, it must be concluded that political parties are deceiving the government.

During the era of the Burma Socialist Program Party, we have seen party members being given salaries and other fringe benefits on top of their duties because it was believed that morality can be upheld only when personal needs are fulfilled first. But, contrary to this, we saw morals getting corrupt and the administrative machinery being destroyed.

Today, there are political parties who cannot afford to pay their telephone dues and rents. I cannot even think how they are going to lead the country. [passage omitted]

Today, the military government is working phase by phase toward transferring power systematically. That our government matches its words with deeds is quite evident. But some political parties are demanding that the power be transferred immediately. They think the Defense Services are an obstacle to the transfer of power and are trying to divide the Defense Services. This is something that the services personnel must always keep in mind. They must stay united in accordance with the slogan: United we shall remain despite of whoever might try to break us. [passage omitted]

Commander on Agriculture, Livestock Breeding Work

BK3009100391 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Excerpts] Major General Myo Nyunt, commander of the Yangon [Rangoon] Military Command, in the company of staff officers of the Yangon Military Command, toured the 501st Air Base in Hmawbi Township this morning to inspect agricultural and livestock breeding programs and to give instructions to the soldiers and their dependents. [passage omitted]

At a meeting held at the conference hall of the air base, Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt spoke on the national situation and on agricultural and livestock breeding to the officers, soldiers, and dependents of the 501st Air Base and the 74th [as heard].

The commander said: The reason that I, in the capacity of the commander of Yangon Military Command, have come to the 501st Air Base is because I want to explain to the soldiers and their dependents the prevailing situation in the country as well as to provide additional information on the agriculture and livestock breeding plans made by the state leaders.

The success of the agriculture and livestock breeding programs this year is unprecedented in the eight years that I have been the commander of Yangon Military Command. During the 1988 crisis, when this 501st Air Base was facing difficulties in acquiring foodstuffs from the market, it turned to its own agricultural and livestock breeding farms for food and thus practically benefited from the farms. I am encouraged by the strenuous efforts being made to achieve even greater successes today.

While undertaking agricultural and livestock breeding programs within the unit, extra efforts must also be made to achieve unity within the Defense Services. Only then will we be able to overcome the military and economic offensives being launched against us.

While on this point, I would like to briefly explain the prevailing situation in the country. At the extraordinary session of the People's Assembly on 21 September 1988, President Dr. Maung Maung said the People's Assembly had today decided to give up the single-party system and to urgently hold general elections under a multiparty democratic system. This decision will go down as a milestone in history. Whether the decision is right or wrong will be decided by history in 20 to 25 years time.

Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt said: In line with this statement and the wishes of the people, we, the Defense Services, have held the multiparty democratic general elections in a most fair and clean manner. Regarding the transfer of power, we will continue to work according to the rules, laws, and policies already laid down.

In the meantime, some public service personnel have been found to have lied to the government. For instance, in order to prevent similar events like those in 1988 from happening again, public service personnel were asked to sign pledges. In doing so, say, a certain U Phyu had written down that he was not involved in the events. But in U Ni's written statement, it was said U Phyu had recruited U Ni to join in the strike. When U Phyu was asked about the conflicting statements, he said he forgot about the matter and therefore did not mention it in his statement. In the same light, a certain U Nyo had written that U Phyu was the strike leader. When questioned about it, U Phyu said he had unwittingly became the strike leader only because the strike committee had forced him to do so.

We understand that there are many public service personnel like U Phyu who have been deceiving the government. In an address to a meeting with the chairmen of state and divisional law and order restoration councils on 26 June 1991 regarding the deception by the public service personnel, Senior General Saw Maung, commander in chief of the Defense Services, said let bygones be bygones, but the practices must be stopped. Despite the warning, deceptions continue, and this has made the Ministry of Home and Religious Affairs to issue Announcement No. 1.

Public service personnel are in fact superstars [preceding word rendered in English]. They are however not the famous and popular superstars that we know. They are just stars that are "Su" "Per" [play of words in Burmese meaning "join in the unrest"]. They are the very public service personnel who joined the unrest that destroyed the state administrative machinery. Today, these same people are enjoying the benefits.

Although the government has directed all departments to carry out agriculture and livestock breeding work, it is only the military units that are undertaking the work. Departmental personnel merely continue to deceive with figures written on their papers. Hence, I will have to give a warning that we, the responsible officials, will be conducting checks in the schools and offices beginning October, and if we do not find the personnel working, they will be transferred to the other states and divisions. We are making arrangements to practice and reward-and-punishment system. [passage omitted]

Brunei, Malaysia, & Singapore

Malaysia

Mahathir Hails Bush Decision on Weapons Cutback

BK0110100491 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 30 Sep 91 p 7

[Excerpt] Subang, Sun.—Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed today welcomed the decision by the United States to dramatically cut back its nuclear weapons arsenal and stressed that all nuclear weapons possessed by all countries should be destroyed.

The prime minister said he was happy with President George Bush's announcement on Friday that the United States would destroy all battelfield nuclear weapons, the so-called tactical weapons that have been ready to repulse a Soviet invasion of Western Europe for decades.

Dr. Mahathir said: "We believe all such weapons should be destroyed because we should no longer live in fear of the weapons being used by any country." [passage omitted]

Mahathir on U.S. Military Presence in Region

BK3009132891 Kuala Lumpur NEW SUNDAY TIMES in English 27 Sep 91 p 1

[By Balan Moses]

[Text] New York, Thurs.—The United States does not need a strong military presence in the Philippines following the cessation of acts of aggression in the region, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

The Prime Minister said most countries were not keen on military adventures due to the cost in terms of money and lives.

"For example, look at the Vietnamese experience in Cambodia. They lost money as well as a lot of people in the fighting. Today, Cambodia is completely out of Vietnam's orbit," he said in a reply to a question following his address at the inaugural meeting of the Malaysia-United States Consultative Group.

The questioner wanted to know if the Prime Minister felt that the American presence at Subic Bay in the Philippines was still necessary.

The Prime Minister said China was another example of a country that had given up ideas of conquest.

"China today is trying to rebuild its economy. It has given up the idea it should conquer the countries of Southeast Asia," he said.

In fact, the idea of conquest and colonisation is generally considered out of date as people have realised it is a burden on the economy.

In a lighter vein, he said countries with conquest in mind should emulate the Japanese by waging an economic war against others.

To a question on whether he felt there were economic opportunities in Vietnam for Malaysia, he said Malaysia was prepared to help rehabilitate the country and direct it towards a market economy.

"There is good potential for economic opportunities in Vietnam for Malaysia. Vietnam is quite isolated at the moment. One they see how Southeast Asian countries have prospered as a result of the free market system, they will come to us for help."

Vietnam is interested in Malaysia's assistance to help rebuild its banking system besides resuscitating the rubber industry and developing its petroleum and gas industries.

King Asks Japan To Lead New Economic Community

BK3009145791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1444 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Sept 30 (AFP)—Malaysia's king, Sultan Azlan Shah, late Monday asked Japan to lead a proposed new economic community of East Asian nations intended to be a nucleus of the Pacific Basin.

King Azlan, speaking at a banquet honouring Japan's Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, said Malaysia would want Japan to recognise its natural leadership role and lead the EAEG.

Japan has not fully committed to the Malaysian initiative of an East Asian Economic Grouping (EAEG), which had been opposed by the United States.

King Azlan said Malaysia, for its part, was prepared to forget the past, apparently referring to the horrors committed by Japan during World War II and look forward to an uninterrupted future of peaceful cooperation for progress and prosperity with Japan, now its largest trading partner.

Emperor Akihito, beginning a four-day visit here, only reiterated Japan's resolve that it should never repeat the horrors committed by Japanese troops during World War II, without making any reference to the EAEG.

In a brief address similar to remarks made in Thailand, Akihito expressed the hope that the peoples of Japan and Malaysia would deepen their mutual understanding, respect and friendship to consolidate bilateral ties.

Japan's imperial couple flew in from Thailand Monday afternoon to begin the second leg of a landmark three-nation Southeast Asian tour that ends in Indonesia on October 6.

King Azlan said Malaysia believed that together with other countries in the East Asia Pacific region, Japan and the Association of Southeast Nations (ASEAN) could work closely together and confidently look forward towards making the Pacific Basin a dynamic growth centre of the world in the next century.

Malaysia, in proposing the formation of the EAEG as an informal trade forum for the East Asian region grouping the ASEAN nations, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong and China, had wanted Japan to take a lead role, but so far had not been able to get a positive response.

ASEAN is made up of Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines and Brunei.

King Azlan said Japan was widely looked upon as a model nation, successful in the process of modernisation to be emulated, "so much so that we embarked on a "Look East Policy."

Emperor Akihito's Press Secretary, Ambassador Kagami Hideo, briefing the press on the royal visit, said the royal couple had earlier exchanged decorations with the Malaysian royal couple. Akihito also conferred one of Japan's highest awards, the Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun, on Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed.

Commentary Discusses Possible Expansion Of ASEAN

BK3009101891 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] There is a distinct possibility that the three Indochinese states like Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam may become members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, ASEAN. That new point was expressed by Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in New York recently.

In the course of his official visit to Mexico and later in his address at the United Nations, Dr. Mahathir had a very busy program. All his public statements had contained useful reminders to North American businessmen of the rapid changes sweeping the entire Asia- Pacific region. There are credible moves toward free enterprise and acceptable political changes in the Indochina region. All the ASEAN governments and their people welcome this change. There are excellent prospects for dynamic economic growth and for enhancement of the quality of life on the people of the three countries. It would be extremely surprising if their leaders did not respond enthusiastically to ASEAN.

From the point of view of geopolitics, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam are in the Southeast Asian region. In a sense, they have the first claim for admission into ASEAN. Several other countries are keen on establishing close contacts with ASEAN. Some have been clamoring for observer status, while others are hoping to be granted full membership.

This in itself is a positive proof of the success achieved by ASEAN. No other regional organization can point to such a speedy pace of progress. The European Community is a different category altogether. It is doubtful if ASEAN will expand for the sake of expansion. It will admit those that possess the relevant prerequisites. The very strength of ASEAN can be attributed to its highly pragmatic approach. ASEAN leaders from the outset have concentrated on achieving what is reasonably within reach. They avoided pursuing impossible ideal goals. At the same time, they have adapted their policies to changing realities. In the earlier years, for example, they concentrated on getting to know one another. Slowly, they set their sights on more complex diplomatic and economic issues.

Today, people in ASEAN tend to take for granted the fact that there is an ASEAN identity in world affairs. Dr. Mahathir's concept of an East Asia Economic Group is also gaining wider ground. The objectives are bound to be beneficial for all the countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Malaysia will continue to promote measures for a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Asia.

Singapore

Editorial Salutes Bush's Nuclear Initiative

BK0110095591 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 1 Oct 91 p 28

[Editorial: "Bush Blunts Nuclear Edge"]

[Text] At a time when history is being created almost every other day, it is difficult to use the term "historic" for an event and yet convey an impression of its significance. However, historic is exactly what President George Bush's proposal to cut the US nuclear arsenal is. Its scope is gigantic. The US will withdraw all ground-based, short-range nuclear weapons from Europe and elsewhere, including the Korean peninsula; remove all nuclear-tipped cruise missiles and bombs from ships and submarines; and take US strategic bombers off alert status. President Bush also wants to hasten the destruction of thousands of strategic nuclear weapons and desires an early agreement with Moscow on eliminating intercontinental ballistic missiles with multiple warheads. In one unilateral decision, wisely timed and boldly taken, Mr Bush has done more for world peace than was achieved through years of tentative, tortuous and even cynical disarmament talks.

The benefits are obvious. If Moscow responds in kind to the US initiative, as it is expected to do, there will be fewer nuclear weapons to fall into unpredictable hands and threaten the world should the Soviet Union fragment. Moreover, the withdrawal of US ground-based, short-range nuclear arms and seaborne weapons—spurring the Soviet Union to do the same—is a boon for allied nations, particularly Germany and Japan, whose citizens were most vulerable to the Soviet use of these weapons. Politically, Mr Bush's proposal lets Japan and other American allies off the hook of having to pretend that US warships calling at their ports do not carry nuclear weapons; nuclear warheads will now be carried almost exclusively by strategic submarines. Domestically, the US proposal, if reciprocated by the Soviet Union, will allow both countries to reduce their defence burden in financially demanding times, though an immediate peace dividend for the US might be a premature hope. And all this will be done without any loss of credible deterrence for the US.

However, even more important than the details is probably the psychological effect, globally, of this change in US strategic direction. The character of the entire international balance of terror, poised precariously on relations between two military superpowers which held the rest of the world to unwilling ransom, is set to change. The balance will still be there—Washington and Moscow will remain, in the conceivable future, the nuclear capitals par excellence of international politics—but President Bush's message is that these two poles will not be viscerally opposed, as they have been. True, that change in superpower relations has been felt in world politics over the years since Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev came to power. But only now is the nuclear edge of the new world—the edge that really, finally counts—being blunted. In making his proposal, Mr Bush has transformed into a nuclear revolution what was a political tour de force by Mr Gorbachev.

Tremendous as is this de-escalation of superpower nuclear rivalry, it is important to remember that the world is not about to turn swords into ploughshares. Apart from the abilities of existing nuclear states, aspiring regional powers—North Korea is a case in point—quietly benefit from the proliferation of nuclear technology and greater ease in the manufacture of delivery systems. Add to these the presence of other weapons of mass destruction, biological and chemical, and it is imperative that efforts be redoubled to contain the arms race in all its dimensions, not just in the nuclear field and not just at the superpower level. Indeed, in the absence of a general improvement in international security, two weaker military superpowers may create a few news issues even as they solve many old problems. The nasty truth is that the superpowers' nuclear arsenal, not in spite of but because of its terrible power, kept international peace overall in the past four decades: The balance of terror was also the balance of peace. It is now necessary, and possible, to keep that peace at lower nuclear levels, but it must be kept.

Cambodia

Hun Sen on 'Major Changes' at Upcoming Congress

BK0110112591 Hong Kong AFP in English 1120 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Paris, Oct 1 (AFP) - Phnom Penh's ruling Popular Revolutionary Party of Kampuchea (PRPK) will adopt major political and economic reforms at its congress secheduled to open on October 16, Prime Minister Hun Sen said here Tuesday.

Hun Sen said in an interview with AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the congress would result in "major changes in the party line towards a liberal, multi-party democracy" and a free market economy.

The congress will open a week before the planned signing here on October 23 of a peace agreement between the four warring Cambodian factions in preparation for U.N.-monitored free elections by the end of 1992.

"The current situation allows us to... envision major progress for a new political and economic life in Cambodia," Hun Sen said, adding that the general trend now dominating the PRPK was "towards social-democracy".

Hun Sen is expected to meet French Premier Edith Cresson and Foreign Minister Roland Dumas later in the day.

The October 23 Paris peace agreement will be signed between Hun Sen's pro-Vietnamese government and the three components of a guerrilla coalition opposed to it, the Beijing-backed Khmer Rouge and the non-communist followers of former Cambodian ruler Prince Norodom Sihanouk and ex-premier Son Sann.

Tax Payments Show Twofold Increase Over 1990

BK3009055891 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0409 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK September 30—Tax payment in Cambodia in the first eight months of the year increased by twofold over the whole year of 1990, said an official of the Customs House in Phnom Penh.

The volume of tax payment rose to 11,298 million riel or two percent more than the yearly target, said Pich Vong, deputy head of the Customs House.

Ninety percent of the sum was collected as import and export duties, he said.

Customs duty payment in August attained 2,000 million riel, of which 1,200 million earned at Kompong Som port and the rest at Phnom Penh harbour.

The payment would reach 20,000 million riel by the end of the year if the current rates held on, the official said.

More Than 500 Students To Go Abroad for Study

BK3009061291 Phnom Penh SPK in English 0407 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK September 30—More than 500 students are expected to have further studies abroad in this new academic year, the Ministry of Education announced.

Six countries, including the Soviet Union, Vietnam, Laos, Hungary, Cuba and the Czech and Slovak Federation, have signed documents with Cambodia for granting scholarships to Cambodian students to further their studies there, it said.

Twenty students would go to the Soviet Union and Vietnam to be trained as assistant doctors and the rest to all the six countries to study in various faculties.

SNC Agrees on 'Three More Important Issues'

BK2809120591 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 1100 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Report by station editor Pol Ham—recorded]

[Text] In New York, the Supreme National Council [SNC] of Cambodia has agreed on three more important issues—the number of seats in the constituent assembly; the number of members of the constituent assembly that can adopt a new constitution; and the time frame for the organization of elections—as supplements to a draft agreement on Cambodia.

On 25 September, the SNC decided that there should be 120 seats in the constituent assembly to be divided in proportion to the number of eligible Cambodian voters in each province.

On the second issue, the SNC decided that the constituent assembly can adopt the new constitution only with two-thirds of the votes of its total members, that is at least 80 members.

As for the third issue, the SNC has decided that the organization of elections should not exceed six months from the first day of electoral registration.

The agreement on the three issues will enable the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and the representative of the UN secretary general to jointly work out a new text for the draft agreement on Cambodia.

We have received a report saying that on 27 September, the five UNSC permanent members, the cochairmen of the Paris International Conference on Cambodia, and the representative of the UN secretary general presented the new draft agreement to the SNC at a joint meeting. And on 26 September, Samdech Norodom Sihanouk, on behalf of the SNC, already delivered a speech at the 46th UN General Assembly.

According to another report, the Paris International Conference on Cambodia decided the the new draft agreement could be signed before 31 October, the previously planned date.

Indonesia

Alatas Lauds Bush Initiative, Seeks Test Ban

BK0110090991 Jakarta ANTARA in English 0848 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] New York, Oct 1 (OANA-ANTARA)—Commenting on the U.S. announcement to unilaterally abolish all its short-range nuclear arms and to follow it up with other steps, Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas expressed the hope that the Soviet Union and other nuclear powers would follow the American example.

The step as announced by U.S. President George Bush had long been waited for by the non-nuclear countries, particularly Indonesia.

Because essentially it is the abolishment of one category of nuclear arms, he told ANTARA here on Monday.

Apart from that, he added, more important still was the unilateral abolishment without waiting for verification particulars, a step which never had happened before.

Therefore, our hope is now directed towards the Soviet Union and the other nuclear powers to take reciprocal steps, he remarked.

The step taken by President Bush should be welcomed enthusiastically by the world community, because it showed that the disarmament process had at present reached a momentum, he remarked.

Asked about his efforts as chairman of the conference to amend the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), Foreign Minister Alatas stated that it would be continued.

According to the non-nuclear and non-aligned countries, in order to achieve an effective nuclear disarmament, followed by a nuclear arms ban, Alatas said, nuclear tests as the source should first of all be tackled.

If nuclear arms tests were banned in all kinds of environments, including underground tests, the nuclear arms race would automatically diminish, he stressed.

At the PTBT amendment conference at the UN headquarters in New York last January, delegations had expressed anxiety about the increasing terrifying destructive power of nuclear arms in the future, because underground tests were aimed at increasing the nuclear arms destructive power.

According to the non-nuclear and non-aligned countries, underground tests which were not included in the PTBT, should also be banned so that a total ban would be achieved on land, in the air, as well as underground.

However, Alatas said, the superpowers had so far not shown any inclination to stop underground tests.

He hoped however that due to the increasing favourable climate at present, efforts towards achieving a total ban on nuclear arms tests would achieve progress.

Pursuant to a decision of the conference to amend the Partial Test Ban Treaty, Foreign Minister Ali Alatas would during the current session of the UN General Assembly, conduct consultations with PTBT signatories.

Military Chief Reiterates Commitment to Peace

BK2809113391 Jakarta THE INDONESIA TIMES in English 20 Sep 91 p 1

[Excerpt] The deployment of more Australian troops in the northern part of the island continent and the advent of sophisticated communication and radar system is the internal affair of the country, C-in-C [Commander-in-Chief] of the Armed Forces said here yesterday.

Answering questions in a hearing with Commission 1 (Defence, Foreign Affairs and Information) of the House of Representatives, General Try Sutrisno said Indonesian officials on every occasion had reiterated to Australia its commitment to economic development, peace, national and regional resilience.

"They understand our aspirations," he said. "It is business to announce the policy to deploy troops in any part of their country. As to your question why more troops are placed in the northern part it is just because Australia is the most southern country in this part of the hemisphere. Naturally, they have to be in that position."

He said he has been to Australia, and he had assured them of the commitment to national development and peace of the New Order Government in Indonesia. Maybe, they still have the old reminiscenes that past enemies have come from the north. As to the sophisticated radar, we have even tried to show our goodwill by proposing cooperation in their use. "We are open to our friends, but they should also do the same without any prejudice whatsoever. But, rest assured, they understand that Indonesia is not a threat to them," Try Sutrisno said.

The General said Indonesia will also in the future have effective electronic and sophisticated equipment. But, mind you, we will deploy these in all directions because we are on the crossroads of Asia. We will not be a threat to any neighbouring country, he asserted repeatedly. "But we also have to be vigilant. We have full confidence in our People's Defence System. Who can face a united Indonesia of 185 million?" he asked with a smile.

Replying to a question as to the possible vacuum in the Pacific due to the end of the Cold War and the US withdrawal from Subic, General Try Sutrisno said Indonesia will remain consistent to its policy and would strive for the application of the Zone of Peace. Freedom and Neutrality in Southeast Asia. That has been our policy since the beginning of ASEAN in 1967, and we remain committed to it, he assured.

If there are other countries in the region with different stances, that is their business. "But, we have a commitment in ASEAN, that the foreign bases are temporary. From time to time, we have reminded our friends about this."

At the same time, the Indonesian commander voiced his belief that in the long run, the United States will curtail its budget due to domestic policies, and it will change the method of its presence in the region.

Replying to a question from an MP about the establishment of reserves in the country, he said, budgetary constraints do not permit this. "But at present, we have pilot projects in two military regions, namely in the North Sumatra and the Siliwangi Commands." [passage omitted]

Laos

Bush's Move on Nuclear Cuts Hailed Worldwide

BK0110034291 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] On the evening of 27 September in Washington, D.C., U.S. President George Bush made an announcement saying that the United States would destroy all strategic nuclear weapons installed on land and in the seas within Asia and Europe, would end the around-the-clock alert posture for all U.S. long-range strategic bombers, and has proposed to the Soviet Union negotiations on the drastic reduction of all short- and long-range nuclear missiles.

On 28 September, Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, responding to the U.S. move, gave a positive response to the U.S. President's proposal on the reduction of nuclear weapons. He noted that the Soviet Union and the United States should seize this important opportunity as a step toward achieving a halt in nuclear arms tests.

According to foreign reports, French President Francois Mitterand called the U.S. president's announcement on a wide-range reduction of nuclear arms a real turning point. He said France is ready to take part in the reduction of the mass-killing arsenals.

In London, Britain's Prime Minister John Major praised the move as being a far-reaching, historic, and imaginative initiative. He said if the Soviet leaders respond with an equal imagination, it would be a turning point in our history, bringing enormous benefits to mankind.

The U.S. press on 28 September gave extensive coverage and comments on the development, hailing President Bush's move as a great change in world politics.

Reports from Washington said that U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney noted that President Bush's plan was the single greatest change in the alignment of nuclear weapons since the 1950's. He went on to say that the move would make the world a safer place to live.

Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke hailed Bush's announcement as a unilateral move which is the single most decisive step for world peace since the nuclear age began nearly 50 years ago.

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu called the initiative epoch-making and courageous.

New Zealand's prime minister called Bush's announcement significantly historic and far-reaching in progress for the people all over the world.

PASASON Article Views State Bank's Policy

BK3009105591 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 30 Sep 91

[PASASON undated article: "State Bank's Policy Toward People Hit by Natural Calamities"]

[Text] This year's natural disasters have left dozens of thousands of hectares of paddy fields nationwide unproductive. Over 8,000 hectares were damaged by droughts, over 60,000 by floods, and over 90 by pests. It is anticipated that next year our Lao people will face rice shortages of not less than 185,000 tons of paddy or 111,000 tons of white rice. Various measures and policies have been adopted by administrations in different localities in a bid to search for all possible ways and means to help the people in the affected areas. Khammouane Province, for example, issued an order to temporarily suspend all construction projects scheduled for the end of this year to divert financial resources to flood relief operations. Savannakhet Province has lifted import taxes for state enterprises and private firms to import 4,000 tons of rice from foreign countries as a way to relieve rice shortages. Luang Prabang Province has been paying 10 kip for each tail of a paddy rodent in order to eradicate the pest. International organizations have also extended helping hands to Laos. For instance, the United Nations gave an additional $50,000 in assistance to Laos to fight natural disasters. Earlier, the organization provided $50,000 in relief funds for the people in Sanakham District of Vientiane Province.

What policy has the the State Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic instituted in dealing with the multiethnic people who have suffered from the natural disasters nationwide, in particular members of credit cooperatives? According to Comrade (Saveng Sengsavang), deputy head of the credit division of the State Bank, members of credit cooperatives must first inspect and assess the magnitude of the damage they suffer. Meanwhile, credit cooperatives should consider the financial status of each member family to see if the family is capable of paying back loans and interest. However, some families might be able to earn extra money by growing vegetables or raising animals such as ducks, chicken, and pigs in order to pay back the bank loans and interest. The bank will extend the loan repayment period three months for those who are really unable to cope with the debt service. The bank will not levy any fine on debtors or change the interest rate during the extension period. The extension of the loan repayment period will be decided by credit cooperatives. Those who are capable of resuming production in the next crop season can seek financial help from the bank, which will closely coordinate with the local agriculture service, along with a recommendation from their credit cooperatives. In order to normalize the livelihood of the victims of the natural disasters, the deputy head of the loan division, through the PASASON newspaper, calls on the administrations in all localities and agencies concerned to closely monitor the damages caused by natural disasters and to take all possible actions for the people to resume their production. The bank is ready to provide loans for credit cooperatives which have worked out fixed plans to boost production to compensate for the past crop losses.

Philippines

Dispute Over U.S. Withdrawal Issue Continues

No Withdrawal Formula Reached

HK0110014691 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] In last night's caucus, the Senate has again failed to come up with a base withdrawal formula which is acceptable to all the senators, who remained in disagreement regarding the withdrawal period for the U.S. military bases in the country.

For Senators Joseph Estrada, Aquilino Pimentel, Sotero Laurel and Victor Ziga, a one-year withdrawal period is enough. Senators Ernesto Maceda, Juan Ponce Enrile and Wigberto Tanada press for three months. Senator Maceda stressed that the three-month period is too short while a two-year period is too long.

Meanwhile, Malacanang stressed that its major consideration in relation to the Republic of the Philippines [RP]-U.S. bases treaty is still the holding of a referendum. President Aquino explained this is because the senators have not yet formed a compromise formula. At present, Malacanang is studying two proposals: one is the seven-year grace period proposed by Senator Joey Lina and the other is the Saguisag proposal for a three-year phaseout period without payment. Although Mrs. Aquino has admitted that the RP-U.S. bases treaty is already a dead issue, she remains adamant on the holding of a referendum while the Senate has not presented any compromise formula on the treaty. Malacanang clarified it will only consider the compromise withdrawal formula if it is supported by 16 senators.

U.S. Withdrawal Position Viewed

HK0110040391 Quezon City MALAYA in English 1 Oct 91 pp 1, 2

[By Marie Rose Feliciano with Desiree Carlos and Romy Tangbawan]

[Excerpts] The United States' position on a compromise withdrawal period is among the factors Malacanang will consider in deciding whether to accept a pullout formula that may be arrived at by the Senate, Press Secretary Tomas Gomez III said yesterday.

"Since there is reference to a third party (U.S.), at the proper time, we should talk with that third party," Gomez said. "They (Americans) want to stay here naman [too].... It goes without saying that it also depends on the Americans."

The U.S. reportedlly wants a three- to four-year withdrawal. Malacanang has urged the senators to come up with a "reasonable" withdrawal period and said such formula should have the support of at least 16 senators, or two-thirds of the 23-man Senate.

A group calling itself the Anti-Treaty Movement yesterday proposed a multiple period of withdrawal and conversion of the U.S. military bases. The movement called for withdrawal of all military components by yearend, and of the civilian component by the end of next year.

Anti-treaty senators said President Aquino should urge the U.S. Government to take out nuclear and all other weapons from military facilities in the country following U.S. President Bush's decision to recall tactical nuclear weapons deployed overseas. [passage omitted]

Sen. Wigberto Tanada (LP) [Liberal Party] said Bush's policy should apply to U.S. military facilities in the country.

Tanada said the announcement is "one more opportunity President Aquino and her foreign affairs and military advisers should not pass up."

"By asking President Bush to remove all U.S. military weapons, nuclear and otherwise, President Aquino would be greatly contributing to the reduction of tension and uncertainty raised by the continued presence of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines inspite of the Senate rejection of the bases treaty last Sept. 16," he said.

Senate President Jovito Salonga (LP) said it only gives more reason to say that "our 'No' vote (on the treaty) was very pertinent."

"It only proves that we don't have to fear external attacks, that we don't need the U.S. bases," Sen. Ernesto Maceda (PMP) [Party of the Filipino masses] said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. (PDP-Laban) [Pilipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength] said it was a "welcome announcement but it won't change our position because we are dealing with more fundamental issues—the constitutionality of the treaty."

Salonga Says Senate Divided

HK0110101891 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The senators who were holding a caucus on the compromise formula for the phase-out period of the American bases in the Philippines were divided into three groups. In an interview with DZRH, Senate President Jovito Salonga said the three groups were made up of the hardliners, who were after the quick withdrawal of the military bases from the Philippines; the softliners, those who were concerned for the base workers and who were asking that the Filipino Government be given sufficient time to take over the Subic Naval Base and Clark Airbase; and the moderates, of which Salonga claims to be a member.

Salonga emphasized that the moderates are asking for a smooth transition wherein the U.S. Government will be given one year to withdraw from the military facilities.

Here is Senate President Jovito Salonga's statement:

[Begin Salonga recording] ...discussions on the compromise formula, there are hardliners who wish that we get it immediately. [sentence as heard] There are those softliners, like Senator Saguisag, who would want the least number of Philippine workers to suffer and who are asking for the Filipinos to be given enough to take over the bases. Then, there are the moderates—I believe that I am one of those moderates—for if it exceeds one year and if the Americans will cooperate with us, I will agree with Phil Salonga's suggestion in order for the transition to be smooth for the Filipinos and so it would be less of a burden for Philippine workers who are still there. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

11 Senators Agree to One Year

HK0110103791 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Combined reports including live interview with Senator Joseph Estrada by Restie de Quiros, DZRH Unit 8]

[Excerpts] [De Quiros] All 11 antitreaty senators agreed to grant a one-year grace period for the U.S. Government to have an orderly withdrawal from Subic and agreed to buy all facilities that would be left behind which will amount to $75 million. In an interview with DZRH, Senate President Jovito Salonga said the government will buy all the American facilities so 40,000 Philippine base workers will not be left unemployed if the U.S. troops leave. According to Salonga, this was done in order to show the government that the antitreaty senators are concerned with the welfare of the base workers. He also said that it will not be Congress' problem how to get the funds for the purchase of the American facilities.

[Begin Salonga recording in English] The consensus is that the withdrawal process should be completed within one year with an offer to buy out the ship repair facilities so the workers can continue their employment, and the government or a private enterprise can operate it on a commercial basis. [end recording]

[De Quiros] Following this, Salonga stressed that many foreign countries are interested in renting the base land, if it is left behind by the Americans, to set up a port; and Congress can get funds from these interested countries to pay for the American facilities. [passage omitted]

[De Quiros] Meanwhile, here is Senator Estrada to comment on their recently held caucus. Sir, can we know what has transpired during the recently held caucus?

[Estrada] The consensus of the antitreaty senators was to give a one-year grace period with the condition that the government will buy all the equipment like the dry docks which amounts to $75 million, so after the takeover by a private company, the workers can continue their employment at the military base. We did this in order to show our concern for the welfare of the base workers in Subic. Our condition is a one-year grace period, but the equipment like the dry docks must be purchased by our government.

[De Quiros] For the information, Joe and Jennifer, of those listening to our station regarding this dry dock, because many of our listeners do not understand very well what a dry dock is. This dry dock is like a jack for an automobile which you put under the automobile to eventually lift it, and that principle is the same in the dry dock which will lift the boat to shore. They have three of these at Subic Naval Base, which cost about $25 million each. Our government is requesting that these should be left behind in our country and purchased by our government so the base workers who will be losing their jobs at the American military base can still use it. Sir, a while ago you mentioned that you are amenable to the compromise formula that was formed by the antibases senators to give a one-year grace period, but you said the American troops must depart immediately. Can you please clarify this?

[Estrada] I am agreeing on the one-year grace period and purchase of the equipment for the ship repair yard that will be used by us which will not halt the work of the workers inside the military bases. My other condition was that these American troops and those nuclear weapons, if there is any, should remain only until the end of this year on 31 December. So if the American troops are no longer here nonetheless the Americans will not interfere anymore with the politics in our country, especially this coming presidential election. This is also to avoid American interference regarding whom they want to be president in our country. What we hope for is to have our own president that is elected by the people, loved by the people; and our elected president will only think of the interest and welfare of our country. Former President Macapagal said during the time of Quezon and up to this time that all those presidents that were elected were possible because of the support of the Americans. What will happen is that the moment that the new president starts to sit, the interest of the Americans or the dictates of the Americans will first be given priority before the interest of our country. So, it is where we see the truth that we keep on going down because even our politics and economy are being interfered in and dictated by the Americans. Like the increase in the oil prices by which the IMF and the World Bank are dictating which they dictate our government. Like this foreign debt cap that was passed and approved unanimously by the Senate and the Congress which is also agreed upon by Cardinal Sin, but when it reached President Aquino, she vetoed it because of the dictate by the IMF and World Bank. This is a clear example because up to this time we are still being dictated to by the Americans. We want to cut the nails of the eagle which is embedded in the neck of each Filipino.

[De Quiros] Thank you very much, Senator.

External Security 'Unaffected'

HK0110074391 Hong Kong AFP in English 0725 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Manila, Oct 1 (AFP)—The Philippines' external security will remain unaffected even when American forces pull out of Subic Naval Base because the country faces no foreign threats, officials said here Tuesday.

President Corazon Aquino's national security adviser Rafael Ileto admitted that external threats had always been handled by the presence of U.S. military bases in this country but said they were less necessary now because of the easing of cold war tensions.

"For the next few years, we don't have to worry about external threats from the outside," he said, although he admitted he favoured the retention of U.S. forces at Subic Naval Base for about 10 more years so the primitive Philippine military could have time to build up its forces.

The Philippine Senate last month rejected a treaty extending the lease of Subic for 10 years. With the treaty's rejection, U.S. forces must pull out by 1992 but Aquino is looking for ways to extend their stay.

U.S. forces have already left Clark Air Base, badly damaged by the eruption of nearby Mount Pinatubo.

Ileto, speaking before a press forum, dismissed speculation that other powers like India, China or the Soviet Union might try to fill the vacuum left by the U.S. pullout, saying, "I don't think they will be a threat to us."

Senate Foreign Relations chairwoman Leticia Shahani also told the forum that she did not believe the U.S. pullout would affect the country's security, saying, "The imperialism of the future will not be spent on military imperialism," but on economic domination such as that practiced by Japan.

President Corazon Aquino and pro-U.S. bases forces in the Senate have cited the massive loss in U.S. assistance and the dislocation of 80,000 Filipino workers at Subic as grounds for retaining the base.

Senate minority floor leader Juan Ponce Enrile said Tuesday he expects a "meeting of minds" among his colleagues on the duration and manner of a U.S. military pullout from the Philippines.

"I am confident that there will be a meeting of minds soon," Enrile told a weekly press forum, noting however that Monday's Senate caucus on the issue of the base pullout "failed to hammer out a formula."

"The Senate is doing all to reach a consensus on the expeditious and orderly withdrawal of American troops from the country," Enrile added.

Philippine constitutional experts said it was up to the president to set a withdrawal period, but Aquino has withheld any action, saying the Senate must first reach a compromise on the time and manner of the U.S. withdrawal.

Enrile said Aquino's earlier plan to put the rejection of the treaty to a national referendum "should not distract the country from the reality that the treaty has been rejected."

Senate To Inventory Facilities

HK0110104191 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The Senate will make an inventory on the facilities and other equipment inside the American Bases in order to effectively prepare the alternative plan for the bases. This was announced by Victor Ziga, Senate Committee on Public Works chairman. Ziga said he asked Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus for an inventory on the facilities on Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base, but up to this time this was not yet acted upon.

Cayetano Files Mandamus Writ

HK0110123991 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 1 Oct 91

["Telephone interview" with Attorney Rene Cayetano by Joe Taruc]

[Text] [Taruc] We have learned that you filed a writ with the Supreme Court. Could you explain why you did this for the benefit of our listeners?

[Cayetano] This afternoon, I filed a writ, called Mandamus, with our Supreme Court against Secretary Drilon, Secretary Mangalapus, Secretary Bello of the Justice Department, Commissioner Mison of Customs, Commissioner Ong of the Bureau of Internal Revenue, and Commissioner Domingo of Immigrations.

[Taruc] Could you please explain why you filed a Mandamus case against these government officials.

[Cayetano] Its like this Joe. The 1947 Republic of the Philippines [RP]-U.S. Military Bases Agreement has already expired. It expired because the treaty which the Senate rejected should have extended the life of the prior agreement. However, since the Senate rejected the treaty, this can only mean that there is no longer a bases agreement. Now, with the 1947 bases agreement, the Americans, the bases personnel, their families and their dependents, enjoyed special rights and privileges which foreigners from other nations do not enjoy. For example, they do not pay income tax, they do not pay sales tax, they do not pay value added tax, and if they enter the country, they are not required by law to avail themselves of a visa from our consulate offices. They also do not report to immigration. If they bring over their cars, furniture and appliances, they are not required to pay customs duties.

Then there is the fact that our courts have no jurisdiction when it comes to crimes being committed within the bases. We are helpless on this matter for all these so-called special rights and privileges were granted by the Philippine Government in 1947.

But now, this agreement has expired, so they should not have any special privileges. They should not be enjoying these special rights and guarantees, so our officials in the executive department should enforce our laws and our Constitution. Secretaries Drilon and Manglapus should tell the Americans to leave because the treaty has already expired. Secretary Bello should be telling the Subic commander that the Philippine courts have jurisdiction over all crime that is and might be occurring within the bases.

Now, as far as the incomes of the employees and sales which occur in the bases are concerned, these should be subjected to the Internal Revenue Code. Furthermore, those Americans who are involved with the bases and their families should get visas or immigrant status before coming into the country. That is what I filed with the Supreme Court so that our honor as Filipinos is protected.

[Taruc] One question here is, would the Americans still enjoy these special rights and privileges despite there being talk of a withdrawal period?

[Cayetano] That is a very good question. You are beginning to think like a lawyer, Joe. If the government is going to give a withrawal period of let us say six months, one year, or two years then this withdrawal is simply for the removal of their installations, their buildings, their other things. But as far as the rights and special privileges given to the Americans under the 1947 U.S. Bases Military Agreement, they are already void as of September 16, 1991.

So, even if there is a withdrawal period, no matter how short or how long, they can no longer enjoy these special rights and privileges. They would have the same rights and responsibilities as the other foreigners—the Japanese, the British, the Chinese, who are in this country. No special treatment and privileges will be given to them.

[Taruc] It is a good thing that you are bringing these matters up for we have the impression that these things are being overlooked by our government officials. That these special rights should have expired with the the 1947 Bases Agreement.

[Cayetano] That is what really hurts, Joe. They are so busy trying to resuscitate this military bases agreement through a referendum and formulating terms for the withdrawal of the bases, that they have forgetten to study the "substantive portions" of the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. I filed this case to wake up those officials and bureau directors who are in charge of enforcing our laws.

If you think about it, we could collect millions of dollars from these bases. And with regards to the money which they claim we would be losing, even if there is a withdrawal period of two years, if they would only pay taxes, customs duties, and immigration fees, I believe that we would be able to collect a large sum of money.

We are not trying to extort from anyone. We are not asking for something which is not due to us. These things are clearly written in the law. It is said in the military bases agreement that the Filipinos waived their rights to collect these things. However, the bases agreement has already ended so this waiver has been lifted. This is why I filed this writ with the Supreme Court. I am asking for the help of the Supreme Court to force these officials to do their constitutional duties. What is happening now is that these government officials are not minding these important things and are concentrating on more trivial matters.

[Taruc] Do you have any feedback on how the Supreme Court judges reacted to this case which you submitted?

[Cayetano] I have no feedback as of now. They still have to study the case. But what is important here is that we have established when the RP-U.S. military bases agreement expired. I know that the government would try to defend the retention of these rights by saying that these privileges are still in force. I want to hear them try to use this argument.

[Taruc] One of the anticipated reactions of the government officials would be their insistence that the bases agreement has not yet expired because the end of the said agreement only takes effect after one year following the serving of the notice of termination. But the notice of termination was withdrawn.

[Cayetano] That is what is odd about it. They served a notice of termination but they withdrew it. But this will be precisely their primary defense. However, my rebuttal to this is already prepared. The Rusk-Ramos Agreement which they are using is merely an amendment to the 1947 RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement. If this agreement has already ended 16 September, 1991, then the amendments have also expired. In other words, the water cannot rise higher than its source. The Rusk-Ramos Agreement cannot preempt its source—the RP-U.S. Military Bases Agreement, which ended 16 September, 1991.

That is why it is important for our countrymen, through DZRH and your program, to know this.

I have noticed that our countrymen and our government officials have forgotten that these four things: The Internal Revenue Code, customs and tariff duties, immigration laws, and the revised penal codes, are the most important laws in the Philippines

[Taruc, interupting] ...I guess its because much of the discussion has been centered on the compensation and duration.

[Cayetano] That is right. We have neglected these laws. But what hurts is that the executive department is not doing anything about it. I only hope that when the Supreme Court sees the writ that I have filed, it will immediately send a notice to these officials to answer these accusations. As I said, even if there is a withdrawal of one year or two years, we would not need to ask for any compensation. It would be certain for we would be getting an amount out of this.

What we are asking for is reasonable. We should treat them equally. If the Chinese and the Japanese pay income tax and customs duties, why not the Americans. This is simply all we are asking.

Short-Term Withdrawal Said Logical

HK0110042691 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 1 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Bush Initiative Further Erodes Bases' Value"]

[Text] The initiative launched by President Bush calling on the Soviet Union to negotiate the dismantling of tactical nuclear weapons underlines the logic of a short-term withdrawal of U.S. military base facilities in the Philippines. Very briefly stated, the logic is that, with the initiative receiving a positive response from Moscow, the days of bases from which to fire nuclear warheads are numbered. Fast-moving events are making these bases unnecessary, and their long-term presence untenable. Therefore, the momentum of events pulling pressure for nuclear disarmament should be considered in formulating the timetable for withdrawal of the U.S. forces from Subic.

As a starting point, the initiative seeks to eliminate so-called theater-based missiles that can be launched from land, bombers, submarines and ships against short-range targets, like those based in Europe and in South Korea. The tactical phase has been made possible by the fact that, in the assessment of the U.S., the Soviet Union has diminished as a nuclear threat following the dismantling of the Warsaw Pact and the political dismemberment of the Soviet Union into autonomous constituent republics.

Negotiations for the elimination of strategic missiles, especially those based overseas, could follow. But, in a move to demonstrate its seriousness about the proposed ban, the U.S. has ordered the removal of 40 long-range bombers and 450 Minuteman missiles from full-time alert.

The defense secretary, Richard Cheney, said, "This is the single biggest change in the deployment of U.S. nuclear weapons" since the start of the nuclear arms race four decades ago. What is directly relevant to the Philippines is Mr. Bush's promise to confine nuclear warheads almost entirely to strategic submarines so that "under normal circumstances, our ships will not carry tactical nuclear weapons."

In Europe, at least, the pace of disarmament and lowering of tensions has, over the past three years, intensified, aided by political developments in that region, and the Bush initiative is bound to accelerate the disarmament momentum in the Asia-Pacific region.

In particular, the removal of nuclear warheads from U.S. naval vessels can make redundant the U.S. policy of neither confirming nor denying that its warships making calls in bases hosted by its allies carry nuclear missiles. Because of the ban explicitly expressed in the Philippine Constitution against hosting facilities with nuclear weapons, the Bush initiative could wipe out this contentious issue in the security relationship between the Philippines and the U.S.

The Bush initiative further demonstrates that increasingly there is no wisdom in negotiating long-term base-lease agreements because events can easily overtake them. From the present vantage point, the lease treaty (which extended it to another 10 years) rejected by the Senate seems already dated. Even though the Bush initiative has not been anticipated by the Senate, its effect has been to put us abreast of the flow of events.

This makes more realistic the terms for the timetable for the U.S. withdrawal.

Aquino Urged To Serve Notice

HK0110063491 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 1 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Formula For U.S. Pullout"]

[Text] It has been two full weeks since the Senate resoundingly rejected the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Security with the U.S. and our President withdrew the notice of termination she served rather precipitately in May last year.

Since then, many constitutionalists and commentators have pointed out that there is no longer an iota of legal, moral or constitutional ground for the continued stay in the country of American soldiers and weaponry. All the arguments for extending their stay are so bankrupt, we are reminded of how Marcos and his flimflam men served up legal hogwash to legitimize their acts. Yet, the Executive Department continues to hem and haw and take its sweet time about issuing a final termination notice. Presuming a high ground she has lost some time ago, Ms. Aquino demands that the Senate hammer out an "acceptable" wihdrawal formula before she drops her schemes to overturn its decision. To get this formula, she has agitated the soon-to-be-displaced base workers to plead directly with the senators.

Enough time has passed for the sting of defeat handed her by the 12 senators to have dulled somewhat. Now it is time for the President of this Republic to do her sworn duty and formally tell our American friends that they must remove their military forces and that, starting today, they have three months to do it. The willful delay she has dealt this important aspect of the constitutional process is clearly culpable and could be pursued if anyone is so minded. This situation cannot be allowed to continue any longer. We appeal to her to see to this immediately.

If she is searching for a correct formula, she might wish to consider the one outlined by UP [University of the Philippines] Professor Ed Garcia which sets forth all the thoughtful parameters vital to a speedy, judicious and dignified resolution of the problem.

First, Garcia says, the Executive must accept the Senate decision on the treaty and this is best shown by serving the notice of termination. The American military presence must be dismantled before the year ends so that the danger of intervention in the 1992 elections will be removed.

The process of withdrawal can be made less painful if it is worked out by a joint RP-U.S. withdrawal committee based on clear terms of reference to avoid the bunglings of our bases negotiating panel that have brought us so much grief. It will certainly help to have key members of the Senate sitting in this joint committee.

Conversion should be tackled in a "related but separate track," Garcia also suggests. Passing the enabling legislation soon is the first step. Related measures to provide special compensation and relief to displaced base workers should also be adopted speedily.

How about negotiations for turnover of the ship repair facilities at Subic to Filippino managers and operators? In the hope that the same thing will not be done to Subic as was done in Sangley and John Hay, an appeal can be made in the spirit of the Manglapus-Shultz agreement for the facilities to be left in an economically useful condition.

We certainly should not expect too much in this respect. No one knows what surprises the U.S. will pull next. Such plans should, therefore, anticipate the worst contingencies.

U.S. Should Be Charged 'Rent'

HK0110060891 Quezon City MALAYA in English 1 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Mukhang Pera"]

[Text] Those obsequious, squeamish senators who will allow the Americans to stay at Subic another three years and charge them nothing so that the Filipinos will not look mukhang pera [money-faced] should review how the Americans financed their Desert Storm war in the Gulf that ensured low gasoline prices for their automobile-centered way of life and liberated Kuwait for the al-Sabah family to continue milking.

According to one report, the war cost the U.S. government $61-billion, of which $54-billion was pledged by all the countries the Americans could put the bite on. Net cost to the Americans was $7 billion. This was dirt cheap, considering the war also enabled them to try out all their war technology (and impress potential buyers), assume undisputed supremacy as the number-one superpower in the world and reinforce their ward Israel's domination of the region.

The biggest donors were the two Arab kingdoms the Americans "saved," Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. The former pledged $16.8-billion, all fully paid up except for $3-billion, and the Kuwaitis $16-billion, on which they're still $2.8-billion short.

The U.S. also twisted the arms of three countries which never even took part in the war but whose economies have been booming, and which readily paid up just to be left alone. These were Japan, which coughed up $10-billion, Germany, $6.5-billion, and South Korea, $555-million, of which $130-million is still due.

Thus, the country that so glibly accused the Philippines of practicing cash-register diplomacy for demanding fair rental payments for its bases in fact waged the most successful, most mercenary cash-register war in all of history. And it didn't hesitate to exact a full pound of flesh from nations it believed it was doing favors, like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. It wasn't bothered by the prospect of being thought mukhang pera.

So why should we allow this to bug us Filipinos? It is all due, of course to a fully misplaced sense of nakakahiya [shame] and pakikisama [goodwill]. But has there been anything more walang- hiya and totally devoid of pakikisama than the way the Americans have dumped on us the bases they have abandoned? Like Camp John Hay, Clark, O'Donnell and, earlier, Sangley Point? They carted away everything that was not nailed down and unscrewed or prised off everything else that was. And, in an incredible display of meanness and ill-will, they destroyed or disabled what they could not carry off. The Clark base they have returned to us is a vast wasteland, which they have not bothered to clean up one bit and which will cost us hundreds of millions to make habitable.

Why should we show any consideration or sympathy for this kind of people? As Senator Juan Ponce Enrile has pointed out, they've already been squatting in this country since the Senate rejected the bases treaty. Right now they're here on our sufferance and generosity. If we must vouchsafe them another one or two or three years to stay on—under the thinnest veneer of constitutionality and legality, it must be stressed—let's squeeze them for every concession and compensation we can get, without any apology or by-your-leaves, because we don't owe them anything by way of pakikisama or utangnaloob [sense of gratitude].

Thus we should charge the Americans rent for every year they'll stay over in Subic. We should haggle with them for any installations we may want them to leave behind, on hard business terms and without any baloney about special relations. If we can reach agreement, fine; if not, let's tell them to begin their phase-out and process of departure the very next day. And if they won't budge let's go to the United Nations and denounce them as squatters, aggressors and an occupying power.

But this business of inviting them to stay another three years gratis et amore is for the birds. We've been masochists and self-wallowing martyrs for too long now—people who enjoy celebrating defeats like Bataan. We had one bright shining moment last September 16 when the Senate voted to bury the bases treaty. But everything has been downhill since. Senators who were 10 feet tall then are back to enjoying their old household chore of shining the Americans' shoes.

Ano ba, ganito na lang ba tayo habang buhay? [Hey, are we going to be this way for the rest of our lives?]

Bush Urged To Remove Arms, Nuclear Weapons

HK0110050491 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0400 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Senator Wigberto Tanada is asking President Aquino to persuade U.S. President George Bush to remove nuclear weapons and other arms from their military facility in the country. Tanada sought this action following the promise of President Bush that the United States will reduce its nuclear arsenal in the world.

The senator said that this is a good opportunity for President Aquino to help in reducing the tension brought about by the uncertain stay of American troops in the country.

Korean, Hong Kong Firms Plan To Do Business

HK0110053591 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 1 Oct 91 p 15

[By Corrie S. Narisma]

[Text] At least eight Korean and Hong Kong companies have committed to do business in the Philippines.

Eloisa Atienza-Lim, chief of the Board of Investments (BOI) investment promotion division, yesterday said that this was the result of the recent investment campaign launched by the BOI.

The Korean firms that had signified plans to invest in the country are Momo Collection, Korea Pan Corp., K.S. Trading, Su Han Co. Ltd. Hansung Joys, and Nam Wah Textile.

Lim said that Momo Collection will start business here on a sub-contracting arrangement that will initially produce $3-million worth of high-quality ladies' bags through a Marikina-based shoe manufacturing company.

The firm will put up its own handbag manufacturing plant in one of the country's export processing zones.

Korea Pan Corp. will produce watch cases and watch dial faces with an export value of $2.5 million a year. Its entire production will be re-exported to Korea for assembly.

Lim said that Korea Pan intends to put up a watch assembly plant and parts manufacturing facility here in joint venture with a Japanese partner.

K. S. Trading will engage in an abaca-weaving project in the Philippines. This will involve the production of abaca-based cloth, which will be reexported to Korea.

Su Han Co. will undertake a golf shaft manufacturing project here. The venture's production will be exported to Korea.

Hansung Joys has already signed up with the Laguna International Industrial Park for a space in the industrial estate.

It intends to form a local firm in joint venture with local groups to manufacture stuffed toys.

Nam Wah Textile will engage in the production of acrylic blankets for export to the U.S.

Only a few days after the investment promotion campaign in Hong Kong, two companies from the Crown-Colony already committed to invest in the country, Lim said.

These are China Europus Ltd, and Chius Manufacturing Co. China Europus will be engaged in the manufacture of low-priced shoes.

Imelda Marcos Reportedly Plans To Return 4 Oct

HK3009022491 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] Former First Lady Imelda Romualdez Marcos, has formally announced her scheduled return to the Philippines on 4 October along with the body of her late husband, former President Marcos. Mrs. Marcos issued her decision after the United States lifted a ban on transporting the body of the former President outside the United States. Mrs. Marcos expressed her thanks to U.S. President George Bush and his administration for the decision which she said is at the right time as it coincides with the second anniversary of the former president's death.

In a news conference, Imelda stressed that this may be the start of reconciliation and unity and a time to forgive and forget the bitter experiences of the past and clarify some of the major issues which affect the country. The former first lady said her return to the Philippines is still being arranged so that it corresponds to the one-way travel document given by the Aquino government to the Marcos family which expires 5 October. However, Imelda clarified that should they be given an extension, she may return home to the Philippines at a date acceptable to everyone concerned.

Manila To Refuse Landing Rights to Remains

HK3009024591 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] On behalf of the Aquino government, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon assured that Malacanang will suspend landing rights for any plane carrying the body of the late president without permission. Drilon said the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu has been given a directive not to issue clearance required for transporting Marcos' body either by air or sea. Drilon also said he has directed the Department of Foreign Affairs to extend Imelda's travel document for 30 days more, or until 5 November 1991.

In related news, the Philippine National Police [PNP] will provide the former first lady adequate security the moment she returns to the country. This was discovered from PNP Director General Cesar Nazareno, in relation to the expected return to the Philippines by Mrs. Marcos after the United States rescinded an Aquino government request to extend the ban on returning the late President Marcos' body. Nazareno said he will give Imelda enough police security escort to avoid any unpleasant incidents which may happen on her return to the country. At the same time, Nazareno issued a directive to the various Civil Disturbance Control [CDC] units in Metro Manila and nearby provinces to prepare for Mrs. Marcos' return. According to Nazareno, the PNP-CDC will maintain peace and order at any protest which may be launched by Marcos loyalists on Imelda's return to the country.

Settlement of Marcos' Remains Issue Urged

HK0110055591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Oct 91 p 10

[Editorial: "Marcos' Remains Issue Must First Be Settled"]

[Text] The issue of the return of the remains of former President Marcos is once more in the public eye with the announcement of former First Lady Imelda Marcos that the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has lifted the ban on the transport by aircraft from the U.S. of the body of the late President which now lies above ground in a temporary "tomb" in a Honolulu memorial park.

This was a ban originally imposed upon the petition of the Philippine government immediately after the former President died in Honolulu in 1989. The effectivity of the original ban was one year. It was renewed, again on the petition of the Philippine government, last year. Last month, the Philippine government again petitioned Washington to extend the ban, this time indefinitely.

As this is being written, the government is saying that it has not yet been officially informed of the lifting of the U.S. ban.

However, the Aquino government has been quick to react to the "lifting" of which it claims it is still unaware. Its reaction is to reiterate its own ban against the return of the Marcos remains, and to repeat its "assurance" that the ban will be lifted before the end of Mrs Aquino's term on June 30, 1992.

Interpreting this ban, the foreign office says the aircraft and the body may be "impounded" or the aircraft sent back to its place of origin "with its 'prohobited' cargo."

Earlier, a Malacanang official had been quoted as saying that the Marcos body would be seized and burned. Later, he was quoted as saying that he was just joking.

That so serious a matter as the burial of the dead, even if that dead had not been President of the land, is treated as a joking matter by no less than the spokesman of the current President, tells us a lot about the character of the people inhabiting Malacanang today.

That President Aquino insists on the ban on the return of the body and keeps saying that she will lift it "before" her term expires on June 30, 1992, only underscores her fear of the dead.

If Mrs Marcos actually dares to come home with the body of her husband before the end of this month as she has announced and the government persists in enforcing its ban, we may have the political equivalent of an immovable force meeting an irresistible object.

No one can predict what would happen then.

But as Representative Salvador Escudero (KBL [New Society Movement], Sorsogon) said in a privilege speech on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late President Marcos, we Filipinos can not proceed with the urgent task of rebuilding and rehabilitating our devastated land unless the issue of the disposition of the remains of Mr Marcos is finally settled and done with.

Manila To Raise Reconstruction Funds for Luzon

HK0110054591 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Oct 91 p 8

[By Andres B. Saracho]

[Text] President Aquino will meet with representatives from the foreign donor community next week to raise about P15 [Philippine pesos] billion in reconstruction funds for the eruption-damaged Central Luzon, Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao disclosed yesterday.

At the same time, Estanislao told reporters that the International Monetary Fund has reassured the government that expenditures for the reconstruction program will not be taken against the fiscal deficit targets under the economic stabilization program.

Estanislao said the Cabinet will schedule in its regular meeting tomorrow the dialog with the foreign donors.

The United States Agency for International Development has estimated the damage wrought by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions at P7 billion while the Asian Development Bank [ADB] put it at P9 billion.

However, Estanislao said the government is eyeing a reconstruction fund of about P15 billion, taking into the account the damage from the continuing lahar flows in the agricultural provinces of Central Luzon.

The meeting is also expected to serve as a formal forum for the government to seek the reallocation of the July 16 earthquake rehabilitation funds from the multilateral lending institutions.

The Philippines was able to obtain aid and loans totaling $562.3 million for the earthquake rehabilitation program. Most of these are still undisbursed, including those coming from the World Bank and the ADB.

Of the $259.7-million earthquake rehabilitation loans committed by the two institutions, only about $85 million has been disbursed so far. Estanislao has earlier indicated that both have signified willingness to rechannel portions of these loans for the eruption-reconstruction program.

Meanwhile, Estanislao said the IMF reassurance will provide the government a leeway in managing its fiscal program in the face of a huge budgetary requirement for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

"(The IMF) mentioned it in July and they repeated it to me only two days ago. The problem is that people don't seem to believe it," Estanislao told reporters.

Of the P257.4-billion national government expenditures this year, P2.5 billion was allocated for the reconstruction of areas severely damaged by the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions.

Against the projected revenues of only P223.8 million, the government is expecting a budgetary shortfall of P26.6 billion this year under the 18-month standby arrangement with the IMF.

Estanislao said the Philippines will not seek any adjustments in the IMF deficit targets.

The finance chief also said the government will use the mid-October meeting of the IMF and the World Bank to press key donors to back a new multi-billion dollar aid package. He said the government hopes to raise between $2 billion and $2.5 billion in fresh aid from major Western donors and Japan linked through the Philippines Assistance Program (PAP).

He told reporters he would use the Oct. 15-17 meeting in Bangkok of the IMF and the World Bank to lobby for support for a third pledging session of the PAP. "We will be discussing with what we call the core group—essentially Japan, the United States, the World Bank and IMF—to determine the possibility of holding another PAP pledging session," he said.

Estanislao said he hopes to win support from key donors for a new meeting in Hong Kong in January. "I am pushing for it because the Philippines cannot afford one year postponement of another PAP pledging session. It will cost us anywhere between $2 billion and $2.5 billion if we postpone," he said.

The PAP was launched in 1989 with pledges of $3.5 billion from 22 donor countries and international organizations, as part of an anticipated $10-billion five-year program to underpin the democratic government restored by President Aquino.

A second pledging session in Hong Kong last February raised an extra $3.3 billion. Of this amount, Japan pledged $1.57 billion to help rebuild the Philippines' battered economy.

Aquino Tells Abadia To Continue Rebel Talks

HK2709144791 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] President Aquino has ordered General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces chief of staff, to continue his talks with the leaders of the rebel soldiers. The president issued the order despite the separate efforts by House Speaker Ramon Mitra toward reconciliation with the rebel soldiers. Tanny Rodriguez has the details:

[Begin recording] In an interview with Abadia, after he presented to the president the Philippine contingent which will be part of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Iraq, he said that the president has hinted that a deadline on the talks with the coup leaders will soon be set because it has taken so long and yet it has not produced anything.

Abadia stressed that if the coup leaders want to talk to him again, he will tell them of the warning that the government will stop this move because it sees no permanent result. [end recording]

Abadia Confirms Surrender of 4 Rebel Officers

HK3009041191 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 29 Sep 91

[Text] General Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP] chief of staff, confirmed the surrender of four junior rebel officers belonging to the Revolutionary Nationalist Alliance since he started the peace initiative on May 1991. General Abadia, however, did not disclose the names of these officers but said they have the rank of captains and lieutenants. Abadia said the four rebel officers are under his custody and are free to go in and out of Camp Aguinaldo while their rebellion cases are being tried by a court martial.

At the same time, the general said he has given the rebel soldiers' group headed by former Colonel Gringo Honasan until 3 October to respond to his offer of peace talks. According to Abadia, military operations against the right-wing rebels remain suspended while the negotiations are taking place. Meanwhile, the chief of staff extended until 5 October the safe conduct pass which the AFP issued to former Lieutenant Colonel Eduardo Kapunan to enable him to continue his talks with Honasan's group. Kapunan's pass expired on 25 September.

Net Foreign Investments Grow First Half of Year

HK0110053491 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Oct 91 p 8

[By Alona Marie Dayrit]

[Text] Net foreign investments—the difference between foreign fund inflows and outflows—to the Philippines continued to rise strongly during the first half of the year. This, however, was not due to an influx of fresh capital but because of a decline in capital withdrawals, the Central Bank [CB] reported.

Latest CB statistics showed that net foreign investments from January to June this year amounted to $434 million, up a hefty 77.87 percent from the $244 million registered in the same period last year.

The substantial improvement, the CB said, was not triggered by a rise in foreign equity inflows but by a sharp drop in capital withdrawn from the country during the period in review. In fact, were it not for the decline in capital flight, the slack in new investments would have considerably pulled down the country's net foreign capital stock as of the first semester, it added.

While it appears that net foreign investments surged from the year-ago level, CB data indicated that new foreign investments put in to local ventures actually went down by 14.10 percent to $67 million as of end-June this year from the previous year's $78 million. This, CB sources noted, reflected foreign investors' waning interest in Philippine businesses due to the "man-made and natural disasters gripping the economy."

Already set back by the Gulf war that slowed down its growth to a mere 0.19 percent during the first quarter, the economy faced further difficulties due to the adverse effects of the 9 percent import levy and the Mt. Pinatubo eruptions, whose full impact have yet to be assessed. This largely explained the 0.23 percent contraction in economic growth posted during the first half of the year.

Thailand

Editorial Lauds Reaction to Bush's Arms Proposal

BK0110005591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Oct 91 p 4

[Editorial: "From Washington With Vision"]

[Text] Rhetoric has become such a feature of world politics that when an international figure says anything described as "historic" or "imaginative" people tend to switch channels. For almost half a century we have lived knowing that a handful of people have possessed the means, if not to blow us all into nuclear dust, at least to destroy enough of the world to make the rest of it probably not worth living in. So when US President George Bush went on television on Friday to say "We can now take steps to make the world a less dangerous place than ever before in the nuclear age," hardened cynics might be excused for reacting as if an aspiring politician had promised to outlaw poverty.

But within hours of President Bush ordering the removal of nuclear Cruise missiles from submarines and warships and the destruction of all US ground-launched tactical nuclear weapons, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev described the decision as "historic". Moscow's detailed response is now expected later in the week. The American cuts, the most dramatic since the superpowers began their Cold War nuclear rivalry in the 1940s, could help the Soviets reduce their crippling military spending and also assist President Gorbachev to meet Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin's demands for arms reductions.

Any lingering doubt about the substance of President Bush's speech came when US Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney said he had ordered some 40 bombers off alert and their missiles deactivated. Nevertheless US officials have since emphasised the cuts could be reversed if the Soviet Union fails to reciprocate.

World leaders gushed superlatives of praise. Germany Chancelor Helmut Kohl, noting the inititative meant the

US would withdraw short-range nuclear missiles from German soil, said the cuts put President Bush "at the vanguard of international disarmament". Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu, who leads the only nation to have been hit by atomic weapons, welcomes "this epoch-making and courageous initiative". Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke described the cuts as "the single most decisive step for world peace since the nuclear age began nearly 50 years ago."

For New Zealand Prime Minister Jim Bolger, there was something tangible. US Navy surface vessels would no longer carry nuclear arms, thus removing the need to ban US warships from New Zealand's self-declared nuclear-free zone. Even North Korea welcomed the initiative. The removal of US tactical nuclear weapons from South Korea has long been a precondition to the North's opening its nuclear facilities to inspection.

There are only two reasons—neither commendable—why nuclear weapons have not been used in warfare since 1945. First, the approximate parity between the two main nuclear adversaries deterred both from pressing the button. Second, those few countries outside superpower hegemony that were trying to develop their own nuclear capability lacked the necessary combination of nuclear weapon and means of delivery.

While the collapse of communism has enabled the superpowers to wind down their Cold War, as President Bush noted, the number of nations with nuclear arms is likely to rise to 20 by the end of the century. Only yesterday UN nuclear weapons inspectors in Iraq said they had "tangible evidence" that Iraq was trying to develop atomic weapons. While some may currently see Iraq as the Satan of the world community who knows which country will attempt nuclear balckmail in a year or so?

Beyond the lessening of nuclear war by accident, corresponding reduction in world tension and ultimately freeing of cash for constructive rather than destructive purposes, perhaps the most imaginative aspect of the American president's peace proposals was his call for the Soviets to join the US in steps towards non-nuclear defences "to protect against limited ballistic missile strikes, whatever their source." Such a move, if it came to pass, would indeed merit mention in tomorrow's history books.

Cambodian Refugees Protest UN Repatriation Plan

BK2809014791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 28 Sep 91 p A3

[By Thana Phuphat]

[Text] Ta Phraya, Prachin Buri—About 150 Cambodian asylum-seekers demonstrated at the Khao I Dang holding centre yesterday to oppose the planned repatriation organized by the United Nations which is expected to follow the signing of a peace agreement among warring Cambodian factions in Paris late next month.

The demonstrators, who claimed they represented the majority of the more than 14,000 of Cambodian refugees and asylum-seekers, said they objected to being sent back because they believed their lives would be endangered by a resumption of civil war among Cambodian factions and landmines strewn all over the countryside.

"We don't think a real peace will be achieved by the signing of the peace agreement in Paris," said Kong Sam Nang, 28, from Svay Rieng province. "They will resume fighting as soon as the results of the election become known to their disadvantage."

Kong pointed out that the four warring Cambodian factions still wanted to keep their troops and arsenals despite the imminent peace settlement and that he believed the UN peacekeeping force would not be able to prevent a return to hostilities.

The three Cambodian resistance forces and the Phnom Penh government have agreed to reduce their armed forces by 30 per cent of their existing strength and put them under the commander of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia before a general election is held.

"Internal strife is one of the flaws in the Cambodian character that is incurable and cannot be understood by anyone but Cambodians," said another demonstrator, Someth Tuy, 38.

The existence of landmines, numbering hundreds of thousands, laid by all four factions during the 12-year civil war were also cited by the demonstrators as a threat to their safety.

The demonstrators, most of them young people who aid workers said were high-school students recruited by a handful of masterminds, carried placards containing messages like: "Power-sharing leads to the Killing Fields" and "Give us resettlement. We won't go back to Cambodia."

UNHCR [UN High Commissioner for Refugees] Representative Daniel Convay, who was on a camp visit yesterday, said the demonstrators had a legitimate concern about their future but said he doubted that they represented the view of the majority of the camp population.

Convay said the UN would do everything to ensure that the eventual repatriation would be carried out only when it was safe for the Cambodians to return.

Refugee workers said some of the Cambodian asylum-seekers who had no resettlement rights were using the demonstration to try to better their chance for resettlement.

—Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin yesterday hailed the success of the Cambodian talks in New York and said he will witness the signding of the Cambodian peace agreement next month in Paris.

Asa, who left early this month for New York where he will attend the anndual UN General Assembly, said he had learnt that the four rival cambodian parties under the Supreme National Council (SNC) had reached an agreement on the electoral system, the last obstacle to the peace solution.

He added that currently the draft peace agreement has already been prepared and could be signed by the end of next month at the latest.

Asa said he will witness the signing of the peace agreement in Paris because Thailand, along with other countries, has been pushing for years for the peace negotiations.

On the repatriation of 350,000 Cambodia refugees who have been taking shelter on the Thai-Cambodian border encampment, Asa said they could be sent back home once the Cambodian peace pact is signed.

Asa Notes Improved Trade Relations With Laos

BK3009143191 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Asa Sarasin said that trade relations between Thailand and Laos had improved. A joint economic commission has been set up to help recover economic and trade relations between the two countries. The improvement is attributed to the efforts made by various parties concerned who have tried to establish peace in this region. Meanwhile, the foreign minister said that security between Thailand and Laos had also improved after General Sunthon Khongsomphong, Supreme Commander and Chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council, signed an agreement with Laos on the establishment of a Thai-Lao joint border committee recently. All these have helped eased tension between the two countries. What we have to do in the next step is to get the private sector to understand the situation. However, it is the duty of the private sector to make its own decision by judging the benefits they will receive. Asa said he thought that it was time to considier ways to expand trade with Laos. He said that in doing business with Laos, we also have to take into account the interests of the Lao side and long term benefits. Previously, Laos asked the Thai Government to help scrutinize the Thai businessmen who are planning to invest in Laos, but we explained to Laos that we could not comply with the request because Thailand has a free trade system. Laos can ask cooperation from the Board of Trade of Thailand to seek information on the companies which want to invest in Laos. However, Laos also has to make its own decision.

Anan Confident on Establishing Free Trade Area

BK0110015591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Oct 91 p 17

[Text] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun is confident his push to establish an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) will continue even after the change in Government early next year, as its liberalisation policies already have been implemented.

His speech was conveyed by video presentation to participants in a conference on the ASEAN Free Trade Area, organised by the Economic Reporters' Club at the Dusit Thani Hotel yesterday.

Mr Anan said most ASEAN countries had now adopted and shown strong determination to liberalise their trade regimes and also to reduce tariffs and make their economics more competitive, not just within ASEAN itself, but with the outside world.

He said that with the high level of industrialisation in ASEAN over the past five years, all countries continued to rely on exports to propel their economies.

He said the AFTA concept would help the economies become more integrated in the international economic and trade system.

He said that with the GATT Uruguay Round talks on opening up systems and strengthening mechanisms, free and fair trade, deregulation, or de-controls on the financial sectors, ASEAN countries had no other choice but to integrate or become a small player in a large playing field.

"But if we can get together among ourselves—among the more like-minded people—and agree on certain sets of rules and agendas as to how we should engage in a more competitive cooperation among ourselves first, then I think if we are successful in this venture, it can only give us greater confidence to go into a larger field, and not to go only to compete with them in a free and fair manner, but to go out as a more solidified and cohesive unit," he said.

He said the free-trade zone concept had been launched in various areas of the world, but ASEAN had not been able to get it off the drawing board, partly because ASEAN was very much preoccupied with political problems, competition between neighbouring countries and the lack of political will.

"All I was attempting to do is to ask ASEAN member governments to set a direction, and within a timeframe. They can take their own time. It could be 10 years or 15 years," he said.

He said the degree of protection in all ASEAN countries was fairly high.

"Thailand in September, 1991, is so different to the Thailand two years ago. Since we administered the country, we have put out a number of measures, both tax and others, which in a way are aimed at restructuring our entire industry. And this will not change because those are enacted in law," Mr Anan said.

He said the objectives of an ASEAN free-trade area were to work towards the creation of a free-trade zone within a time limit, and to adopt a selective approach in a sense that it would be done on a sector-by-sector basis with each sector having its own time frame.

"We want a sector-by-sector approach, and we also hope that nobody is going to ask for exclusionary items because there will be some structural problems," he said.

"We are not that ambitious to create a single common market. We would like to see these six fragmented ASEAN markets merging gradually into a large market.

"At the moment, we concentrate on the merchandise trade but I am sure if we are successful in this area, then the whole concept can be expanded."

The proposed ASEAN free-trade zone was designed to accommodate the trend of international trade, and if member countries were successful in the free-trade zone, it would be an even more attractive place for those outside the region to invest.

"I am fairly hopeful that once the economies of the neighbouring countries, especially Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, are opened up more to the outside world, and that they have had some kind of transition to adjust to the market economy system, they will see the advantage in associating themselves with ASEAN," he said.

Amaret To Attend ASEAN Meeting 7-8 Oct

BK0110032091 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in English 0000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] The 23d Annual Meeting of ASEAN Economic Ministers will be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 7-8 October.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Sakthip Krairoek said that the meeting will discuss Thailand's proposal to set up an ASEAN free-trade zone, as well as the preparations for the 4th ASEAN summit and Uruguay round negotiations.

Moreover, Mr. Sakthip said other important issues on the agenda include trade protectionism and ways and means to develop ASEAN mechanisms.

Minister of Commerce Amaret Sila-on will lead the Thai delegation to the meeting. The team comprises the deputy ministers of finance, of foreign affairs, and of industry, as well as senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs responsible for economic matters.

Supreme Command Endorses Military Trade Show

BK3009015991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Sep 91 p 20

[Text] Signal Asia '92, a trade exhibition of military communications, electrical and electronic systems and equipment for tactical defence, will be held for the first time in Bangkok with the full endorsement of the Supreme Command Headquarters.

Sitra-Thai Co managing director Somnuk Chetchirawat, the organiser of the event, said the exhibition would be held at the fair-ground of the Supreme Command Headquarters from February 11-14.

Royal Thai Armed Force Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong will act as chairman of the advisory committee of Signal Asia '92.

The specialised trade event will give Royal Thai Military officials, Police Department and government officers a first-hand look at a wide variety of advanced technology in military communications, electrical and electronic systems and equipment.

It will also provide an opportunity for them to exchange their expertise with participants from various countries, both exhibitors and visitors.

Innovative products to be on display in Signal Asia '92 will cover a wide range in military communications technology, such as tactical ground radio, ground-based communications, microwave and troposcatter naval systems and equipment, air force communications, satellite communications, line systems and equipment, data communication, surveillance and signal analysis.

Activists Warned Against Disrupting IMF Meet

BK0110012991 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Oct 91 p 1

[Text] Army Chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun has urged activist groups to refrain from disrupting the World Bank-IMF meeting, warning that he will not hesitate to use drastic measures to ensure peace and order.

Talking to reporters after officially assuming the additional post of supreme commander, Gen Suchinda said yesterday that he wants to ensure that the period leading up to the meeting from October 14 to 16 is peaceful.

Differences of thinking are normal he said, but: "It certainly will not hurt that hard if we withhold these differences for two or three weeks.

"This is my request, in every one of my capacities as supreme commander, Army commander-in-chief, vice-chairman of the National Peace-keeping Council and director of the Capital Security Command," Gen Suchinda said.

He urged student groups to keep low-key this year's activities to commemorate the October 14, 1973, student uprising.

"They have been commemorating the event for several years so there should not be any problem if they curtail their activity once," he said, claiming that a certain group is attempting to capitalise on the October 14 event and other conflicts, including that of conservationist monk Phra Prachak, to creat trouble which might lead to political changes in the country.

Some former politicians, teachers and labourers are being "unknowingly drawn into the plot which involves tens of million of baht in (planned) expenses."

He said he had received unconfirmed reports of possible attempts to create unrest during the meeting and warned that if action is taken it will be against "the leaders" and not ordinary followers.

"We are not going to deal with the pawns but we will target the king, the knight and the rook," said Gen Suchinda, who added that he will not hesitate to use drastic measures if necessary to maintain peace and order.

He said the military will provide the back-up for the police to ensure that the meeting is held smoothly.

"The success of the meeting will be crucial to the country's economy for the next three to five years because the delegates and other participants are powerful bankers who will go back to tell investors to come here if our country is peaceful and stable."

He called on all members of the public as well as the local news media to help project a good image of the country.

Interior Minister Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi echoed Gen Suchinda's statement, adding that whoever plans to create unrest during the period should refrain from doing so.

The Cabinet has assigned the Interior Ministry to ensure that the meeting is held without any problem, he said.

Meanwhile, the Tourist Police have launched a campaign to track down 50 members of foreign criminal rackets preying on tourists—an apparent clean-up operation before the arrival of conference participants.

The rackets involve several nationalities including Hong Kong Chinese, Pakistanis, Arabs and Filipinos, Tourist Police chief Col Laksanaphichit Sorat said.

Suchinda Pledges To Relinquish 'Dual Role'

BK0110011391 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 1 Oct 91 pp 1, 3

[Text] Army Chief Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun officially took on an additional task as Supreme Commander yesterday, but pledged to give up one of the two jobs after consolidating the unity of the three Armed Forces during his transition period in the new post.

Gen Suchinda did not give an exact time frame, saying his tenure of dual responsibilities with the Army and Supreme Command "will be short."

"What we are doing is aimed at ensuring unity with the armed forces during the transition period," he said.

Military top brass turned out in full yesterday to witness the handover of responsibility from retiring Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong and Gen Suchinda at Supreme Command headquarters.

Later at his home, Gen Suchinda was congraduated by Chulachomklao Royal Academy's Class 5 officers in the military and the police led by Deputy Army Chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi.

Gen Suchinda said he could not say how long his dual role would last.

"I need to wait to see how the work goes. If it runs smoothly, there will be no need for me to continue holding two positions at the same time," he said.

Army sources said it is expected that Gen Suchinda will hold the two posts for a year at most before giving up the Army command to pave way for the promotion of Gen Itsaraphong, his brother-in-law.

Gen Suchinda, immediatley after his official takeover as supreme commander, defended military arms spending, saying it would keep the armed forces strong.

Although the global trend is moving towards peace, Gen Suchinda said the arms trade business has moved in the opposite direction and continues to prosper.

Citing neighbouring Malaysia as an example, Gen Suchinda said that country has had a five-year arms supply agreement with Britain,.

As long as piracy in the Gulf of Thailand continues and other matters still require military protection, the armed forces will need to be kept strong, Gen Suchinda said, adding military strength cannot be built in one or two days, citing the case of F-16 jet fighters which take three years to deliver.

"We can't just buy when problems occur. We have to consider our security problems and consider acquiring along that line."

He claimed that the armed forces, particularly the Army, are under-equipped. The Army, has only 50 to 60 per cent of its actual arms needs.

"This is something the people do not understand."

Gen Suchinda said the military will remain neutral politically and will not take sides with any of the political parties.

He disputed allegations that top military men usually meddle in politics, saying that there are several senior officers who have opted for life as civilians.

These include his predecessor, Gen Sunthon, who announced he would take up private business after his retirement, and former Army Chief Gen Prayut Charumani, who has worked as Thai Military Bank chairman since his retirement several years ago.

Asked about a survey which showed him among four most popular choices for the next premier, Gen Suchinda said surveys do not necessarily always come true.

Judges Give Justice Minister No-Confidence Vote

BK2909012691 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Sep 91 pp 1,3

[Text] Almost 500 judges from throughout the counry last night cast a no-confidence vote against Justice Minister Praphat Uatchai and demanded his ouster.

They claimed that the minister's conduct in handling the appointment of the Supreme Court president implied dishonesty and they could no longer work with him.

The judges also voted to reaffirm the Judicial Commission's ruling on September 2, confirmed on September 16, appointing Prawit Khampharat as the court's new president.

Defying the minister's order baning them from using the Judicial Officials Development Institute to hold a farewell party for three retiring top judges, about 600 judges—including some who have retired—attended the party at the Central Plaza Hotel.

A meeting was held after the party to sound out their opinions on the appointment and what action should be taken to deal with the minister.

Several posters which read "Zone Free from Minister" were hung up along the hallway and in the Wiphawadi ballroom to bar the entry of Mr Praphat.

Among the participants were several top judges. Supreme Court president Sophon Rattanakon, who is due to retire tomorrow, was absent.

"We come here tonight to protect the dignity of the judicial institution and to show our gratitude towards the three outgoing judges," said Wirachai Sutsuwan, Chief Justice of the Region 3 Appeals Court.

Withun Tangtrongchit, the Supreme Court's outgoing vice-president and a member of the commission, said the commission had been subjected to unfair attacks by the minister without a chance to respond.

The commission was accused of breaking the law, which is a serious charge, Mr Witun said, adding that if the commission had broken the law, several rulings by the commission should have been illegal.

"How can a person who breaks the law sit in the Supreme Court?" he asked.

Justice Permanent Secretary Praman Chansu, who attended the party but did not vote, explained that he could not do so because he is still the permanent secretary and answerable to the minister.

Asked about the presence of a large number of judges opposing Mr Praphat, he said it is something that "one could not afford to take for granted."

He likened the conflict with the minister to hot water in a boiling kettle without a lid to let out the steam, adding: "It will explode."

Senior Judge Prawit, elected court president by the commission, did not vote.

Supreme Court Chief Judge Udom Fuangfung, one of the leaders of the rebel judges, said they voted to join in opposing what they call the minister's interference in judicial affairs.

They also agreed to set up a 21-member working group, led by Mr Udom, to push to fulfill their objectives within the "office hours" of Monday.

The working group is scheduled to meet today to discuss steps to be taken to achieve their goals.

An informed source they would ask Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun to help mediate the conflict.

A senior judge said they would refrain from doing anything to affect the public.

Analyst Notes NPKC-Anan Relationship Conflict

BK2909014091 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 29 Sep 91 p 2

["Weekend Analysis" by Banyat Tasaniyawet: "Kaset Bares Rising NPKC Frustration"]

[Text] Air Force Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshall] Kaset Rotchananin's comment that the Government would have to resign if the draft Constitution did not pass through the National Legislative Assembly [NLA]—although sounding totally without reason—indicates that the NPKC is applying full pressure to oust the Anan Panyarachun administration.

The NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] vice-chairman's comment is unreasonable because there is nothing in the interim Constitution, not a single article, which can be cited to back a call for the government to resign or to take responsibility for a potential rejection of the draft charter by the NLA.

The interim charter states only that if the draft is not approved by the assembly in the third reading, then the NLA would have to come up with a new draft.

If this does not pass the assembly, the NLA is to be dissolved. The NPKC and the Government will then select one of the previous constitutions, make any necessary adjustments, and submit it to the King for promulgation.

There is no reference to any responsibility on the part of the Government in the case that the draft charter is not accepted by the NLA. But there is one article which may be on the minds of some people—Article 22—which empowers the NPKC to sack the Prime Minister.

Although NPKC vice-chairman Gen [General] Suchinda Khraprayun and junta secretary-general Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi have always denied conflict between the NPKC and the Government, the fact is relations between the two authorities have not been smooth from the start.

They have been engaged in protracted warfare over the multi-billion baht C.P. Telecom project to expand the telephone capacity by three million lines.

The Anan Government firmly refuses to allow any monopoly of a public utility under a single company.

It divided the concession into two million lines for Bangkok, and one million for the provinces. Many senior brass in the junta, from Gen Suchinda, Gen Itsaraphong to Gen Wirot Saengsanit, all spoke with one voice—they did not want the contract altered this way.

Gen Wirot, the Deputy Communications Minister, even protested by not joining the negotiations and blurted out that the honour of a general was being looked down on.

Then there was the 50,000 million baht budget for jet fighters and weapons for the three armed forces which the military said the Chatchai Chunhawan government had promised them.

When they recently asked the Anan administration for this money, the government told them that it had none.

Prime Minister Anan told the NLA in a "thank you" speech after the passage of the 1992 Budget Bill that military and weapon spending will have to be slowed down in keeping with the changing world situation in favour of peace and democracy.

The 800-million-baht budget to build the Supreme Command headquarters was also slowed down. Only 100 million baht was granted for this year and the rest would be granted in the next five years.

The Anan Government is highly self-confident and independent, even though the NPKC has demonstrated its frustration clearly. When asked about the relationship between the Government and the junta, Gen Suchinda replied: "It's normal, like a married couple, you just have to stay together."

But suddenly the NPKC called on the government immediately to resolve the three "pressing problems" facing the people—traffic congestion, expensive consumer goods and the proposed tax on savings interest.

The last may be resolvable for the benefit of small salary earners. The Finance Ministry put out a bill exempting those with less then 10,000 baht in annual interest on savings.

Expensive consumer goods seems to be a periodical problem with every government and the price appears to rest more with demand and supply. But the traffic jams pose a problem with no answers—it's certainly not something the interim government can deal with.

The fact that the traffic problem was cited against the Government shows the frustration of the NPKC with the administration.

Political observers believe the junta feels it appointed the Government, took all the risks in staging a coup and gave power to Mr Anan.

But not it finds the Government is not very impressed with the NPKC's status, it is not very careful about the feelings of the junta's top brass, and the military is not even getting the defence funds it sought.

Even more painful for the NPKC is that the more disputes it has with the government, the worse its public image becomes. But Mr Anan, who has tried to make himself "transparent" and periodically explains his work to the public, has been gaining increasing public confidence.

The Premier also announced that he has never thought about resigning before his time is up. He reaffirmed he will stay on for his full term in accordance with the interim charter—about a year.

That may have caused more frustration for the junta.

Some observers even think that if it was not for the World Bank meeting in Bangkok next month, the relationship between the Government and the NPKC might have deteriorated much further. The meeting may have extended the life of the Anan Government.

No one thinks the NPKC will dare to cite Article 22 this time because it would cause inestimable damage. There would be domestic and international opposition even stronger than after the coup.

As things stand, it appears certain that the junta will have to find a way to extend its power beyond the general election. It is hard to hope that it will disband and go back to the barracks.

Power seems to have a way of making those who enjoy it reluctant about letting it go. The NPKC also has cause to fear reprisals from the various political parties that were damaged beyond expectation after February 23, 1991.

There have been reports of attempts to amend the draft and introduce a four-year temporary clause similar to that of the last constitution, allowing permanent government officials to take political posts.

This would clear the path for Gen Suchinda to take the prime ministerial chair after the elections.

He would not stand in the Cabinet alone among politicians but would be accompanied by military top brass from the NPKC.

Air Force Leader Kaset's Statement 'Big Goof'

BK3009013791 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Sep 91 p A10

[Editorial: "Freudian Slips and Wishful Thinking"]

[Text] Air Force Commander ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rochananin must have realized by now that he made a big goof last week when he asserted that the Anan administration would have to resign if the draft constitution was rejected by the National Assembly.

He noted that the draft constitution was the most significant possible piece of legislation, more important than any bills on financial affairs. Since a government would have to resign after its defeat over a financial bill, it would be reasonable, according to ACM Kaset, to expect the Anan government go also quit if its draft constitution was "defeated" in the legislative assembly.

ACM Kast was wrong for a few obvious reasons. First of all the Anan administration had nothing to do with the drafting of a new constitution. Deputy Prime Minister Michai Ruchuphan did chair a committee producing the first draft. He was assigned the task by the National Assembly, not by the Anan Cabinet. Now the draft is being scrutinized by another committee appointed by the National Assembly.

It is an open secret that the National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] hand-picked the 25 committee members, who included a spokesman for the NPKC and an assistant army chief designate. Yet the NPKC leaders, including deputy NPKC chairman ACM Kaset, continue to claim that they won't interfere in the constitution writing process.

After the scrutiny is completed, the revised draft will be sent for a second reading in the National Assembly and subsequently a final vote on whether to approve or reject it. Should it be rejected, the Interim Constitution doesn't call for the immediatly resignation of anyone. Instead a new draft will be produced under the same process.

Only when the second draft is rejected will the National Assembly—not the Cabinet—be dissolved. After that the NPKC and the Cabinet will jointly choose either of the two rejected drafts or any of the past constitutions for an urgent review and amendment and have it promulgated so that the next general election can be held as soon as possible, and preferably before the end of next April.

Instead of resigning, the Anan adminstration will play a direct part in producing a new constitution under this contingency. But it is unclear on what basis a joint NPKC-Cabinet meeting will make its decision. The Interim Constitution merely stipulates that the NPKC chairman, retiring Supreme Commander Gen [General] Sunthon Khongsomphong, will preside over such a meeting.

Arm-twisting the Cabinet to agree to a particular version of a new constitution may not be easy as Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun and several civilian ministers are known for their independent thinking. If the NPKC leaders have a grand design for Thailand's political future they can certainly tailor a new constitution to fit into their scheme of things. They have firm control of both the National Assembly and the scrutiny committee. Thus there is no apparent reason for their concern that the draft constitution may be rejected in the Naitonal assembly. All they need is the presence of 195 of their supporters (a two-thirds majority) in the 292-member legislature to pass the draft constitution.

Could ACM Kaset's goof have in fact been a Freudian slip? The air force chief has been a vocal critic of the Anan Cabinet on some issues. He also happens to be the only one on the NPKC who is not afraid to admit to entertaining the idea of becoming the next prime minister if no one else, especially army chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun wants the top government post.

Supposing that Anan actually steps down after the World Bank/IMF conference next month, like some reumours persistently have it, ACM Kaset doesn't appear to be among the top candidates to succeed Anan. Chances are that Gen Suchinda will take over because of "overwhelming" requests from his followers in Class 5 of Chulachomklao Royal Military Academy.

However there is still no indication that Premier Anan is contemplating stepping down before the end of his term. He may not be having a terrific time in this job, but he seems to believe he can still do the country a great service by hanging tough.

Undoubtedly Anan is far better qualified than anyone on the NPKC as far as integrity, credibility, international recognition and management ability are concerned. Why anyone on the NPKC would want to see him and his civilian colleagues go out of office so soon is a mystery to us.

Maybe we have to wait for more Freudian slips from ACM Kast to get some clues.

Political Parties Cooperate To 'Shut Out' NAP

BK3009035191 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Sep 91 p 1

[Text] Ubon Ratchathani—The Samakkhi Tham and Chat Thai parties have agreed to coordinate their campaigns to shut out Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut's New Aspiration Party [NAP] from the Northeast and Central regions in the general election, a senior Samakkhi Tham source said yesterday.

Leader of the military-backed Samakkhi Tham Party and the Chat Thai Party, which has fallen under military direction following the coup d'etat, have agreed not to compete with one another in the two regions in an effort to block the NAP from establishing a foothold there, the source said.

"We have joined to shut out Gen Chatwalit's party. Wherever Samakkhi Tham is stronger, Chat Thai will not field candidates. And where Chat Thai is stronger, we will not field candidates. We are confident we can take the northeast this way," the source said.

Chat Thai deputy leader Dr Anuwat Watthanaphongsiri met Samakkhi Tham acting secretary-general Sqn Ldr [Squadron Leader] Surin at the weekend and reached the agreement.

Sqn Ldr Thiti was leading other former MPs—who have joined Samakkhi Tham—on a tour of Ubon Ratchathani, Surin and Sisaket, to plan their campaign strategy against New Aspiration which is aiming to make Isan its home base.

The former MPs who toured the three provinces with Sqn Ldr Thiti included Sayom Ramasut (Chieng Mai), Ruangwit Rik (Kamphaeng Phet), Sa-At Piyawan (Lampang, Chatchawal Chomphudaeng (Roi-Et) and Wirawon Sitthitham (Nakhon Phanom).

The source, a former MP for the North, said Samakkhi Tham also aims to take the north under the leadership of party leader Narong Wongwan.

And it expects to win more than half the 127 seats in the 17 northeastern provinces.

With Chat Thai still capable of winning most of the Central region seats, the two parties will comprise the core for the next coalition government.

Samakkhi Tham will then push for Army Commander-in-Chief and NPKC [National Peacekeeping Council] vice-chairman Gen Suchinda Khraprayun to become the next prime minister, the source said.

Dr Anuwat reassured Sqn Ldr Thiti that he could take all nine seats in Buri Ram province.

However, the biggest battle between Samakkhi Tham and New Aspiration would be in Surin, for eight seats, where key New Aspiration figure Phisan Munlasatsathon, the former permanent secretary for the interior, will try to establish a stronghold for the party.

There are expected to be two constituencies, each of four seats, in Surin. Samakkhi Tham has set Seksan Saenphum, Sombat Sisurin and Kiat Sisurin, to lead the campaign in one constituency.

They will joint Chat Thai to try to take the other constituency as well.

"Over all of Isan, we have plans to block New Aspiration. There will be no seats that party can be 100 percent sure of winning," the source said.

It is also known that the breakway Social Action Party [SAP] faction of former MPs from the North and Northeast, led by Subin Pinkhayan (Chiang Mai), Mai Sirinawakun (Kalasin), and Santi Chaiwirattana (Chaiyaphum), are also set to join Samakkhi Tham since their attempt to form their own party has run into road-blocks at the Interior Ministry.

Influential Chon Buri godfather Somchai Khunplum, better known as Kamnan Po, will also join Samakkhi tham, the source said.

However, party figures admit that all their plans depend heavily on the shape of the Constitution, in particular if it is amended to adopt a party slate system and enlarged constituencies.

If this type of system is not adopted, the break-away SAP faciton and others will not join Samakkhi Tham.

However, former MPs agree that the current political situation favours the party.

Previously, many doubted if Samakkhi Tham had as many former MPs as it claimed.

But after the public statements of Air Force chief ACM Kast Rochananin in support of the partly slate system and Gen Suchinda's indication that he may accept the premiership, more than a hundred former MPs have joined the party.

Samakkhi Tham is also coordinating efforts with other parties in some provinces in their all-out effort to block Gen Chawalit, the other potential candidate for the prime ministerial post.

In Phitsanulok they are coordinating work with Prachakon Thai's Koson Krairoek and will not be fielding candidates against him sources said.

"We will coordinate efforts with any party if we can block New Aspiration," one source said.

Some Samakkhi Tham people believe Gen Chawalit is now in a difficult situation and may decide not to run inthe elections at all.

"If we succeed in blocking him in the North and Northeast, he just may not run. His aim in entering politics is not to be an MP but to be the prime minister," open Samakkhi Tham candidate said.

Former deputy industry minister Wirawon Sitthitham said he joined the party because he wanted to see Isan MPs united to develop the neglected region.

He supports Gen Suchinda for the premiership because the general would enable this to occur.

The party slate system would strengthen the political party system, particularly in Isan where MPs belonging to many parties could not cooperate to help their people.

Mr Seksan, a former Surin MP, said he is a soldier and is confident the Army chief can bring progress to his region. This is why he wants Gen Suchinda as prime minister after the election.

Sqn Ldr Thiti said his party has arranged about 90 per cent of its candidates for the Northeast and is confident of "closing the door on our opponent."

"We will do what no one thought we could: create unity among Isan MPs. We are confident of absolute victory over New Aspiration," Sqn Ldr Thiti said.

Close Election Expected in Northeast Region

BK2909033691 Bangkok THE NATION in English 29 Sep 91 p B2

[From the Political Desk]

[Text] The impoverished, heavily-populated Northeast stands to become one of the hottest battlegrounds in the upcoming general election, with three major parties expected to fight fiercely for domination of the region that should give the winner a strong hand after the poll.

With a host of ongoing defections plus many undecided potential defectors, it is impossible at the moment to predict which of the three camps—Democrat, New Aspiration and Samakkhitham parties—will hold sway in the 17 northeastern provinces until the dust has cleared.

Another crucial factor rests with the National Assembly, which must decide what type of election system will be introduced for the poll. The draft constitution proposes the old system in which voters choose individual candidates, but seeks to enlarge constituencies. There has been a strong push, however, for a new method that would oblige constituents to vote for party teams instead.

At least 1,200 candidates are expected to run for the estimated 126 seats in the Northeast. Due to political uncertainties generated by the February military takeover, the realignment of politicians will continue until the last minute.

The 1988 general election saw the Chat Thai Party capturing the largest number of House seats, 31, followed by the Social Action Party with 29. The Democrats came third with 17 seats.

But the Feb 23 coup and its repercussions have crippled the Chat Thai and Social Action parties, sending key members scrambling to find a new camp with better poll prospects.

Many of the defectors have joined the New Aspiration Party (NAP) and the Samakkhitham Party, which has identified itself with the military rulers.

Some Democrats have also defected. But a possible mass breakaway has been pre-empted by what is seen as a Democrat resurgence following decisions by the military-installed committee investigating politicians accused of corruption.

All three senior Democrats named in the military's corruption list have been cleared by the committee. But most leaders of the Social Action and Chat Thai parties have been declared unusually rich, which subjects them to further investigation and leaves their parties' members in disarray.

The assets committee's decisions kicked the Democrat northeastern engine into high gear. Deputy Democrat leader Prachuap Chaisan, freed from the investigation, declared he would "die with the party", an announcement that stopped many party members from defecting.

Prachuap has been instrumental in building the Democrats' northeastern stronghold. While serving as science minister, he played a vital role in the Kong-Chi-Mun Project, a water management and distribution scheme for the drought-sticken Northeast.

Prachuap is expected to lead Democrat candidates in Udon Thani which, with up to 12 seats at stake, will most likely become a battlefield for veterans.

In Udon Thani, Prachuap would have to encounter Gen Charuay Wongsayan of the NAP and Prasop Butsarakham, former deputy SAP leader who is now a Samakkhitham member.

The Democrat Party swept seven seats in Udon Thani in the last election. The remaining five seats were shared among the Chat Thai, Social Action and Puangchon Chaothai parties.

NAP leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut has yet to put his political popularity to the test. But he has expressed a clear determination to seize control of the Northeast, the region where he carried out the ambitious Green Isaan Project while serving as Army commander in chief.

Though the Green Isaan Project, a much-heralded anti-drought scheme, seems not to have lived up to expectations, it has apparently given Chawalit important political credits. The programme also created controversy last week when the military decided to discontinue it.

The Green Isaan Project had completed its five-year implementation term and the government had to decide if it was to be continued, the military declared. The announcement seemed reasonable, but the timing aroused suspicion.

Observers say the military's move could be aimed at encouraging debate that would remind the public that the Green Isaan Project was a product of the government, not the NAP. Chawalit, voters could be told, should not seek political gain from a scheme implemented with state money and manpower.

If that is the case, the intention to discredit Chawalit could easily backfire, provoking a groundswell of public sympathy for the ex-Army chief. Moreover, Chawalit could simply tell poor constituents that if they want the project to go on, they should vote for the NAP.

Chawalit's party has been so confident of its poll prospects in the Northeast that it has said capturing less than half of all House seats available in the region would be a failure. One major reason for such optimism is a key party man, former permanent secretary for the interior Phisan Munlasatsathon.

Phisan is said to have established strong connections with northeastern provincial governors when he held the top bureaucratic post. That factor helped facilitate the building of the NAP's political base when he decided to enter politics.

Phisan will almost certainly run in Surin, along with his younger brother Phunsawat, who is a former SAP MP, and Suthi Phuwaphan, an ex-Solidarity MP who won the largest number of voters in the province in the previous general election.

Analysts say the NAP's base is stronger in lower parts of the Northeast including Surin, Nakhon Ratchasima, Buri Ram, Chaiyaphum, Si Sa Ket, Ubon Ratchathani and Yasothon.

Samakkhitham faces more unpredictable prospects. Though it has attracted many defectors from key parties, the pro-military group is hampered by lingering image problems which may get worse.

The party is currently led by Narong Wongwan, who left the Solidarity Party helm to join Samakkhitham after being acquitted by the corruption investigating committee. But with his opponents repeatedly questioning his background and the military shadow looming over the party, he is widely considered a mere figure-head.

Most of Samakkhitham's key members are those who broke away from the Chat Thai and Social Action parties. The party's many veterans count as a big advantage, but where and how to field them effectively could produce a major headache.

The party is pushing for a major amendment in the draft constitution to require people to vote for party teams. Such a change, said to be strongly advocated by some military leaders, would allow the new party to stretch its human resources, thus enhancing its hopes of winning a majority in the poll.

It is still unclear who will raise the Samakkhitham flag in the Northeast. Some indications point at Chaloemphan Siwikon, former secretary-general of the Solidarity Party, who will become a major financier of the new party.

Bank Official Forecasts 8 Percent Growth for 1991

BK2609014591 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 26 Sep 91 p 13

[Text] Thailand's economic growth this year is expected to be only 8 percent because of the ongoing economic slowdown in the second half, Bank of Thailand deputy governor Roengchai Marakanon said yesterday.

Earlier forecasts put economic growth at 7.9 percent in the first half and 8.5 percent in the second half, or 8.2 percent for the year.

But growth in the second half was being affected by a slowdown in industrial growth and foreign investment, which might be caused by the US economy taking longer to recover than was earlier expected, he said.

Other local factors might also be responsible, such as high interest rates which forced investors to delay their investments.

He said credit expansion up to the end of last month had declined to 22.4 percent per year.

The Bank of Thailand would have to closely follow the meeting of industrialised countries to be held in Bangkok during the World Bank/IMF meeting.

He said if the US implemented a low-interest policy to stimualte its eocnomy, the world economy would improve. However, the impact on Thailand by the US move would not be felt until next year.

Under these circumstances, next year's economic growth would be more than 8 percent.

Regarding interest rates, he said if any commercial bank dared to spearhead the lowering of loans rates, it would be in an advantageous position in the credit expansion line.

Textile Exports Grow Steadily in First Half 1991

BK3009034891 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0000 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Business Economics Department reported that textile goods have become one of Thailand's major exports. Over the past decade, Thai textile exports have increased steadily at an average growth rate of 23 percent per annum. The total annual export values of textile goods rose from 15,420 million baht in 1981 to 94,247 million baht in 1990. The total textile export value for the year 1991 has been estimated as 100,810 million baht, representing an increase of about 12 percent over the previous year.

Exporting textile products in the first six months of this year has been rated as good at a nearly high growth rate due to several favorable factors. For one reason, Thailand still has an advantage in having lower production costs when compared to other rival countries. Another reason is that Thailand has been able to expand its textile exports to new markets, such as Poland, Panama, and Nigeria. Consequently, the total export value of textile products in the first six months of this year is expected to reach 51,300 million baht.

Vietnam

Bush Must Prove Arms Reduction by 'Deeds'

BK0110134191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[From the daily press review program]

[Text] NHAN DAN today carried an article by Le Ba Thuyen entitled: "Mr. Bush's New Plan in Reducing Nuclear Weapons." The article says: The new plan on reducing nuclear weapons announced by President Bush on 27 September has evoked the world's great interest. Many countries have welcomed this plan, considering this a significant move in reducing the huge world nuclear arms arsenal that can terminate all earthly lives 100 times over. Observers, however, hold that even if Mr. Bush's new plan on reducing nuclear weapons is fully implemented, the U.S. will still retain a huge stratagic arms arsenal.

In his speech on the evening of 27 September, Mr. Bush asserted that the U.S. will continue with the SDI [Strategic Defense Initiative] program. The 1992 budget for this plan is $4.6 billion while that for the B-2 Stealth aircraft project is $3.2 billion. Moreover, the Pentagon continues to maintain nuclear cruise missiles in submarines and other modern nuclear arms, including the three categories of nuclear weapons. Taking into account the volume of nuclear weapons permitted by the START treaty, the U.S. has 8,000 nuclear warheads, each with an explosive capacity 100 times the Hiroshima bomb.

The U.S. administration's new nuclear arms reduction plan is positive, which, if it materializes, will further improve international relations. However, the White House must prove this intention by deeds. Even so, the danger of a war of extermination has not been entirely removed. A broad section of the peace-loving people of the world share the view that to make our planet safe and to ward off the danger of a global holocaust, there must be persistent efforts to completely eliminate all kinds of nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction across the globe.

First English-Language Weekly Begins Publication

BK0110154491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1346 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi, Oct 1 (AFP)—Vietnam's first weekly English-language newspaper since 1975 has been published in Ho Chi Minh City.

The VIETNAM INVESTMENT REVIEW, a 24-page tabloid aimed at foreign investors, hit the streets of the southern city Friday.

The paper is published by Vietnam's State Committe for Cooperation and Investment (SCCI) in partnership with Vietnam Investment Review Pty Ltd., an Australian-registered firm that is part of the Loftfern Publishing Group.

Subscribers in Hanoi received the first edition Monday.

Five thousand copies of the English-language weekly were printed, along with 2,000 copies of the Vietnamese language edition, said Vietnam Investment Review Pty Ltd. chairman Lloyd Worland.

The paper combines Vietnamese news, features, and interviews by its own correspondents with international news, features, and sports from AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE and UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL.

About 20 advertisers bought space in the first edition.

Sino-Vietnamese Military Dictionary Published

BK2809130491 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] A Sino-Vietnamese Military Dictionary has been compiled. The publication of the 700-page dictionary is to serve the purpose of research, teaching, and learning the Chinese language at military schools in Vietnam.

Nationwide Activities Mark PRC National Day

BK3009151091 Hanoi VNA in English 1451 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 30—A get-together between chapters of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association and the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi was held here this morning.

Present were Trinh Ngoc Thai, vice president of the Vietnam Union For Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organizations; Pham Nhu Cuong, vice president of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association; Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei; and others.

On the same day, a meeting was held by the Vietnam-China Friendship Association and the Hanoi March 8 Textile Mill to mark the Chinese anniversary.

A filmshow was given here this evening by the Ministry of Culture, Information and Sports to open days of Chinese films.

On this occasion, leaders of the Northern border provinces of Lao Cai and Yen Bai sent their message of greetings to their counterparts in Yunnan Province, China.

The Lao Cai Township and Sa Pa, Bao Thang, Muong Khuong Districs of Lao Cai Province sent their delegations to the celebrations of China's national day in a district of Yunnan at the invitation of local Chinese officials.

Do Muoi Greets PRC's Jiang Zemin

BK0110033891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Sep 91

[National day greetings from Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam Central Committee, to Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee]

[Text] Comrade Do Muoi, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee, on 30 September sent the following message to Comrade

Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party [CCP] Central Committee:

On the occasion of the 42d founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China, on behalf of the CPV, I would like to extend my warm greetings to the CCP and wish the Chinese people, under the leadership of the CCP, many still greater achievements in their reform and open-door process to make the PRC a prosperous and powerful socialist country. I would also like to wish the traditional friendship between the parties and peoples of our two countries constant consolidation and development.

May I wish you, comrade, good health and much success in your heavy responsibility.

My respectful salutations.

Leaders Send Greetings to PRC

BK3009150991 Hanoi VNA in English 1438 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 30—Vietnamese party and state leaders today sent their warmest greetings to their Chinese counterparts on the 42d national day of the People's Republic of China (PRC).

The message, addressed by Party General Secretary Do Muoi to Chinese Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin, wished the Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party of China still greater achievements in their reforms in order to build the PRC into a prosperous and strong socialist country.

It wished the traditional friendship between the two parties and two peoples of China and Vietnam constant consolidation and development.

In their joint message addressed to Chinese President Yang Shangkun and Premier Li Peng, State Council President Vo Chi Cong and Chairman of the Council of Ministers Vo Van Kiet said:

"The Vietnamese Government and people greatly rejoice at the new fine development in the relations betwen the two countries and believe that the two countries' summit meeting this year will lead to the full normalization of the Sino-Vietnamese relations. We believe that the Sino-Vietnamese friendly neighbourly relationship, based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-Existence, will constantly develop and meet the basic and long-term interests of the two peoples, thus actively contributing to peace, stability, and cooperation in the region."

"We sincerely wish the Chinese people still greater achievements in their reforms, thus making China more prosperous and stronger."

Also today, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao extended warmest greetings to his Chinese counterpart Wan Li.

Greetings to Friendship Group

BK0110060091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] The Vietnam-China Friendship Association has sent a message of greetings to the China-Vietnam Friendship Association on the 42d founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China. The message says:

The Vietnamese people are profoundly interested in the positive developments of the process of working toward the normalization of relations between Vietnam and China, and will do all they can to contribute to that process in the long-term and fundamental interests of the peoples of both countries and for the benefit of peace, stability, cooperation, and development in the region as well as in the world.

Hanoi Weaving Plant Marks Day

BK0110050791 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 30 Sep 91

[Text] A ceremony was held at the 8-March Weaving Plant in Hanoi this morning, 30 September, to mark the 42d founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China [PRC].

Attending the meeting were Comrade Nguyen The Dung, vice minister of light industry and vice chairman of the Vietnam-China Friendship Association Executive Committee; Comrade Le Sinh Tang, vice chairman of the Hanoi Municipal People's Committee; Zhang Dewei, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PRC, and his wife; and cadres from the Chinese embassy.

Addressing the ceremony, Comrade Van Ngoc Tuyen, party committee secretary and concurrently deputy director of the 3-March Weaving Plant, reviewed the achievements recorded in numerous areas by China over the past 42 years. He also expressed his joy and wished the Chinese people increased success in their current process of reform.

In his speech, Chinese Ambassador Zhang Dewei pointed to the new results achieved by China in numerous fields and expressed his belief that the friendly relations between Vietnam and China will soon enter a new stage in the interests of the peoples of the two countries, as well as for the sake of peace, stability, and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the world as a whole.

More Activities, Meetings Noted

BK0110112991 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Many celebrations have been underway throughout Vietnam to mark the 42d national day of the People's Republic of China on October 1 in an atmosphere of friendship and advancing toward restoration of

Sino-Vietnamese relations. On this occasion, our radio gives the following views and opinions.

For the first time in more than 10 years without normal relations between Vietnam and China, celebrations of the national day of China have been held in many localities in Vietnam this year. An exhibition of Vietnamese and Chinese postage stamps was opened in Hanoi on Saturday, 28 September. More than half of the 5,000 stamps on display were contributed by China. The stamps depict the history, man and people, and the achievements in economic, cultural, scientific, and technological fields, and landscapes of the two countries. The former friendship and cooperation between the two countries have also been reflected through those stamps.

Earlier, a ceremony was held in Hanoi to inaugurate the direct-satelite phone link between Vietnam and China. Meetings and get togethers have been held in many places which have relations with China to mark the occasion. These activities remind us of the friendship and cooperation between the two countries which were very close and warm in the past. At present, both Vietnam and China are trying to restore their relations on the basis of respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity, nonagression and nonintervention in each other's internal affairs, equality, and mutual benefit.

The recent official visit to China by Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Cam and the coming Sino-Vietnamese summit, are a fine expression of this fact. However, the Vietnamese are well aware that on the road toward full normalization of Sino-Vietnamese relations there remain many problems to be discussed and solved. But by attaching great importance to the traditional friendship between the two countries and to aspiration of the peoples of both countries, the Vietnamese party and state persist in promoting the process of normalizing bilateral ties, gradually broadening the Sino-Vietnamese cooperation, and settling pending issues through negotiations.

On the 42d national day of the People's Republic of China, the Vietnamese people sincerely wish the Chinese people great successes in their national construction. We are convinced that with continued efforts made by both countries, the Sino-Vietnamese relations will be fully normalized in the near future.

PRC Envoy Discusses Relations

BK0110150491 Hanoi Vietnam Television Network in Vietnamese 1200 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Statement by Chinese Ambassador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei on the occasion of the PRC's 42d National Day in Vietnamese; live or recorded]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends: First I would like to express my appreciation to the Vietnamese Central Television Station for having given me a chance to speak before a large audience of the Vietnamese television on the occasion of the celebration of China's 42d National Day.

Over the past 42 years since the founding of the PRC, led by the Communist Party of China [CPC], the Chinese people have scored many great achievements in the cause of socialist revolution and socialist construction. It is especially noted that over the past 10 years since the exercise of its reform and open-door policy, China has made vigorous steps forward in various areas—industrial, agricultural, scientific, technical, educational, cultural, public health, calisthenics, sports, and the like.

The once-poor and backward China now has started becoming a prosperous country with an independent and perfect industrial and economic sytem. Many of its main industrial and agricultural products have ranked first in the world in terms of production output. Its economic results have been increased sharply. The problem of feeding and clothing 1.1 billion Chinese has basically been resolved. At present, the Chinese people are exerting efforts to carry out their 10-year development plan and their eighth five-year plan, trying to increase their gross national product four-fold over that in 1980 and upgrade the people's living standards from bare subsistence to average levels, thus laying a firm foundation for faster development of the national economy in the 21st century.

To build Chinese-style socialism, we have drawn on various essential lessons of experience which call for using economic construction as a central task and persisting with the Four Basic Principles—namely persisting in the socialist line, persisting in the leading role of the CPC, persisting in Marxism-Leninism and Maoism, and persisting in the system of people's democratic dictatorship by the proletariat while persisting in the reform and open-door policy.

Regarding foreign relations, China will firmly maintain its diplomatic policy of peace, independence, and sovereignty; positively develop its friendly relations with all nations, especially with its neighboring and surrounding countries; strengthen solidarity and cooperation with third world countries; advocate solving all international disputes through peaceful negotiations; and maintaining world peace.

Dear comrades and friends: China and Vietnam are two neighboring countries sharing the same mountains and rivers. For many generations now, the peoples of the two countries have exchanged friendly relations and have built up their profound traditional friendship. We are very pleased to note that recently relations between the two countries have been improved rapidily and sharply. At present, both sides are taking realistic measures aimed at gradually restoring the exchange of relations and cooperation between the two countries in various domains, such as economic, comercial, postal, communication, transportation, cultural, and other areas. What has made us feel especially elated is that China and

Vietnam have agreed to hold a high-level meeting within this year in order to officially announce relations between the two countries.

We are convinced that the restoration and development of friendly and good-neighborly relations between China and Vietnam on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence will not only conform to the interests of the two peoples, but also they will benefit peace, stability, and cooperation in the region.

On this occasion, I wish early resumption and constant growth of the traditional relations of friendship and cooperation between China and Vietnam.

May the Vietnamese television audience be of good health and happiness.

Thank you.

PRC Envoy Holds Reception

BK0110154591 Hanoi VNA in English 1537 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA October 1—Chinese Ambasador to Vietnam Zhang Dewei and his wife gave a reception here today on the occacion of the 42nd national day of the People's Republic of China (Oct. 1st).

Among their Vietnamese guests were Phan Van Khai, Politburo member of the party Central Committee [CC] and standing vice chairman for the Council of Ministers Gen. Doan Khue, Politburo member and Minister of National Defence Hong Ha, secretary of the party CC and head of its External Relations Commission Nguyen Manh Cam, member of the party Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs.

Members of the diplomatic corps and representatives of various international organizations, in Hanoi were present at the function.

In his speech, Ambassadeor Zhang Dewei said: "China and Vietnam are neighbours sharing mountains and rivers. The two peoples have long been bound togeter by their traditional friendship. The improvement and development of Sino-Vietnamese relationship have not only conformed to the fundamental interests of the two peoples, of peace and stability in the region, but also contributed to the maintenance of world peace. The Chinese Government and people are willing to strive together with the Vietnamese Government and people for an early normalisation of the relations between the two countries, to restore and develop the friendly, cooperative relations between China and Vietnam".

In reply, Phan Van Khai said "the Vietnamese Government and people greatly rejoice at the new fine development in the relationship between the two countries and especially feel elated at the news on the upcoming summit meeting between the two countries this year for a full normalisation of the Sino-Vietnamese relations. We believe that the friendly Sino-Vietnamese neighbourhood, based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, will further develop, meeting the fundamental interests of the two peoples and actively contributing to peace, stability and cooperation in the region.

Guests and hosts raised toasts to the everlasting friendship between the peoples of China and Vietnam, and the further consolidation and development of the neighbourly and cooperative relations between the two countries.

Australian Minister: Relations Sound, Expanding

BK2809074591 Hanoi VNA in English 0603 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA September 28—"We regard our relationship with Vietnam as sound and expanding", said Senator the Hon. Nick Bokus, Australian minister for administrative services, at a Hanoi function on Thursday evening.

The Australian minister, who was in Vietnam for the opening here on Thursday of the Australian Embasy complex, recalled that his country established diplomatic relations with the then Democratic Republic of Vietnam in 1973.

He went on: "Since 1973, the relationship between Australia and Vietnam has expanded dramatically and the opening of this new complex, in a sense, is a physical manifestation of that growth. When the embassy was first established on this site in 1978, the volume of trade was low and the political relationship was undeveloped. Now, however, Vietnam has become an important partner for Australia, not only in terms of the bilateral political relationship but also in the commercial and cultural fields as well as in terms of people-to-people links.

"We regard our relationship with Vietnam as sound and expanding. Over the years, and despite different social systems, we have successfully developed substantial and effective dialogue on bilateral, regional and global issues. Australian companies are showing an increasingly keen interest in Vietnam as economic reforms in this country begin to widen trade and investment opportunities. Recognising the scope for economic co-operation, our two governments have given priority to putting into place a framework of agreements to facilitate and stimulate growth in the commercial relationship. There will no doubt be scope to develop that framework further.

"The relationship has developed in other fields as well. Academic and cultural exchanges now occur on a regular basis. Increasing numbers of Australian visitors, many of them of Vietnamese origin, are coming to Vietnam. This has been facilitated by the introduction of direct flights from Australia.

"All these aspects have contributed to consolidating the friendly and co-operative bilateral relationship between Australia and Vietnam", added Mr.Bolkus.

'Feature' on French Cooperation in Agriculture

BK2909093091 Hanoi VNA in English 0536 GMT 29 Sep 91

["Sunday Feature" titled "Franco-Vietnamese Cooperation in Studying Agrarian Systems in the Red River Delta" by Professor Dao The Tuan, director of the Vietnam Agricultural Sciences Institute]

[Text] Hanoi VNA Sept. 29—As agricultural research becomes more and more specialised, growing attention is attached to plants, animals, processes, technical or socioeconomic measures. The fast, however, remains that development of agriculture, whether in a village or in a country, cannot be construed without the development of a whole system comprising an ecosystem and a socioeconomic system.

Working on that belief, we have been studying agrarian systems in the delta of the Red River which is the most populous region in Vietnam, with the longest history of development and the best intensive methods of rice farming. The purpose is to discover constraints and work out ways to overcome them.

We have studied ecological constraints in different ecological zones—intensive-farming zones, lowlying zones—and have determined plant systems appropriate to each as well as measures to remove existing ecological constrainst.

In 1983, the National Institute of Agricultural Research (INRA) of France began taking an interest in our work. Ever since it has been cooperating with us in comparing rice-growing agrarain systems in France and Vietnam.

Since 1988, with the introduction of Resolution 10 of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam which encourages household economy in the countryside, our cooperation has taken on a new dimension, given the fact that rural household economy has a long history in France.

A programmme for joint research has been formulated regarding rural households and villages in the Red River Delta and farmer-market relationship in the plains and midlands. Joint teams of Vietnamese and French researchers have been formed to conduct integrated studies for the formulation of an integrated rural development strategy appropriate to Vietnam which will enable households to become family farms engaging in commodity production and will help resolve farmer-market relationship in a satisfactory way.

We have succeeded in classifying rural households in different groups, each with its own conditions in land, labour and capital, thereby working out different business strategies for each group. As the groups have different problems in production, they should be provided with different technologies. They also need credits for investment in production and assistance in acquiring the necessary inputs as well as in seeking outlets for their products. For this purpose, an extension programme is being experimented with, which combines the introduction of new technologies and the implementation of various socioeconomic measures.

In planting we are helping farmers in organization and management for a better use of water, a more rational cropping pattern and a higher quality of rice. Special attention is attached to cutting cost given the fact that rice production, as it is now, is not profitable enough. Measures are also taken to ensure greater profits from winter crops which are non-staple foods.

Animal husbandry is the least profitable line in agriculture at the moment. For this reason, assistance is being extended to farmers to help them soon be able to raise their activity to a commercial level. As food processing is an important measure to increase the value of farm produce, generate employment, increase income and step up rural development as a whole, new technologies suitable to family-sized operations are being studied. Yet, to make them applicable on a large scale, steps must be taken to overcome the many socioeconomic constraints, the biggest being the securement of stable outlets for the processed products.

In a word, a viable socioeconomic environment must be created if all these problems are to be resolved once for all. But all is not well for the moment. Macroeconomic regulations, for instance, are causing considerable difficulty to agricultural development: recent price rises in materials have led to higher costs and, consequently, to stagnation in production and export.

In this general context, it is hoped that solutions will soon be made available by France-Vietnam scientific cooperation, which is on the rise, as indicated by the presence of more and more French researchers and students in Vietnam.

Commerce Minister on Foreign Trade, Exchanges

BK2909082891 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] In his first visit to Ho Chi Minh City after having been elected Minister of Commerce and Tourism, Mr. Le Van Triet met with the pressmen there. He admitted that the narrowing of market, imbalance of payments, and the work shortage for handicraft workers involved in the production of export goods have caused difficulties to Vietnam's foreign trade. But he said that some main exports of Vietnam in recent years such as crude oil, maritime products, rice, and other farm produce remained unaffected and are expected to produce an important source of hard currencies.

On the question of market, Minister Le Van Triet said that apart from traditional markets such as the Soviet Union and other East European countries, Vietnam will broaden its economic relations and goods exchanges with all countries, particularly customers in this region such as Hong Kong, Singapore, China, South Korea, and Japan.

But in the immediate future, the Soviet Union will continue to be a big market for Vietnam's products which are of lower quality than those required by customers in Western Europe and Japan. In fact, many import-export companies in different parts of Vietnam have direct contacts with their counterparts in the republics of the Soviet Union and with those in Germany and Poland. This is the good sign showing the dynamism of Vietnamese trade companies.

In the first six months of this year, Vietnam export value totalled $750 million and 69 million ruble or 43.5 percent of the plan for the whole year.

Mr. Le Van Triet said: These figures were considerable given the fact that export to the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe has dropped drastically while at the same time new markets require higher quality, better design, and quicker delivery.

Minister Le Van Triet continued: For the very new market of China, we will, one day, discuss with the Chinese side, trade exchanges according to international practice. At present, local companies have already made contacts with their Chinese partners and trade exchanges have begun. We think we will increase [trade exchanges] considerably in the future.

He said: Vietnam will try to export more than $1 billion worth of products in the second half of this year. To achieve this goal, he added: Vietnam will have to increase its main exports. These include crude oil, rice, coal, maritime products, rubber, tea, wood, and groundnuts.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong Visits Ha Tuyen Province

BK2909053691 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 26 Sep 91

[Text] Comrade Vo Chi Cong, adviser to the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee and chairman of the Council of State, visited and held a working session in Ha Tuyen Province on 23-25 September. He was warmly welcomed by comrade Pham Dinh Duy, deputy secretary of the provincial party committee; Ha Thi Khiet, member of the CPV Central Committee and chairman of the provincial people's council; Hoang Thua, chairman of the provincial poeple's committee; many leading cadres from agencies, and representatives of mass organizations and people.

Comrade Vo Chi Cong listened to reports by members of the provincial party committee and people's committee and council, on the situation of Ha Tuyen Province, its achievements and difficulty in improving socioeconomic, security, and national defense tasks.

He also listened to the provincial key cadres' reports on preparation for separating Ha Tuyen into two provinces of Ha Giang and Tuyen Quang in accordance with resolution of the recent Eighth National Assembly's ninth session.

At a conference to discuss tasks on dividing Ha Tuyen into these two provinces, Comrade Vo Chi Cong commended cadres and people of Ha Tuyen for their achievements, and conveyed kind regards from the CPV Central Committee, the National Assembly, and the Councils of State and Ministers to people and cadres in the province.

Dealing with immediate tasks of the two new provinces, Comrade Vo Chi Cong said: Ha Giang and Tuyen Quang provinces will soon convene their second round party organization congresses. They should strive to satisfactorily carry out the two strategic tasks of formulating orientations and policy to develop the province in the days ahead, and to elect competent and good cadres for key, leading agencies of the province. He stressed: Party committees and people of Ha Giang and Tuyen Quang provinces should make their utmost efforts to build their provinces into modern and prosperous localities to meet the aspirations of the ethnic minorities in the region.

During his visit to Ha Tuyen, Comrade Vo Chi Cong paid visits to a number of production establishments, cooperatives, and schools in Son Duong District and Tuyen Quang City. He also visited the Tan Trao Revolutionary Relics Center, presented gifts to Uncle Nguyen Tien Su and families who used to provide services to Uncle Ho, called on former high-ranking officials of the party and state who worked for the revolution before the 1945 August Revolution, planted trees, signed the visitor book at the Tan Trao Museum, visited the Tan Trao agricultural cooperative, and presented new rice varieties to a number of ethnic minority people at the cooperative.

Chairman Vo Chi Cong also met and held cordial talks with cadres of Son Duong District. He urged countrymen and cadres of the district to develop the revolutionary tradition and strive to build and firmly defend the fatherland, thereby contributing, together with ethnic minority people of Ha Tuyen and people throughout the country, to triumphantly build a strong and prosperous Vietnam in accordance with the resolution of the Seventh CPV Congress.

Nong Duc Manh Attends Lai Chau Party Congress

BK3009084191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Lai Chau Province held its second round 8th party organization congress on 23-27 September. Attending the congress were Comrade Nong Duc Manh, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau; Nguyen Van An, member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy head of the party Central Committee Organization Department; and Nguyen Tien Phong, deputy head of the party Central Committee Mass Mobilization Department.

The congress discussed the formulation of the provincial economic structure, which relies chiefly on agro-forestry, reclamation of virgin land, and the agricultural processing industry and services. The congress encouraged efforts to uphold the spirit of self-sufficiency and discussed measures to develop and exploit the existing natural and energy resouces. The province should concentrate efforts on investment and the development of large valleys that can be turned into zones for cultivating grain and subsidiary food, as well as industrial crops. Regarding the rural highland areas, efforts should be made to plant upland rice and promote animal husbandry and the planting of special crops. The province should encourage families and individuals to engage in the raising of livestock in order that the annual increase of livestock of 2.5-3.00 percent can be achieved. Efforts should also be made to develop long-term industrial crops and plant 1,000 hectares of tea and 1,500 hectares of coffee. Regarding foresty, efforts should be made to restore afforestation, zone off areas for animal husbandry, and build four villages for the settlement of nomads in accordance with the new models.

The province should coordinate with the central sectors to carry out ore exploration, especially for rare stones. About 7-8 percent of the provincial budget should be allotted for the production and exploitation of natural resources for export in order to increase incomes and to endeavour to reduce the province's own expenses by 30 percent in 1995. The province should request the central government to link its source of supply of electricity with the national network and to repair road No. 6 from Tuan Giao to Thi Xa districts.

The congress elected a new 45-member provincial party organization executive committee, 13 of them being elected for the first time. 18 of them are university graduates and four are women of ethnic minority groups. Comrade Nguyen Niem, member of the CPV Central Committee, was reelected secretary of the provincial party committee.

Dao Duy Tung Attends Thanh Hoa Party Congress

BK3009054191 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Thanh Hoa Province held its second round 13th party organization congress on 24-27 September. Comrade Dao Duy Tung, member of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee Political Bureau attended.

The congress stated that since the 12th party organization congress, despite numerous difficulties, Thanh Hoa province has achieved some great results in many important areas, thanks to its efforts in persistently implementing the party's renovative lines. In the socioeconomic field, the province has made notable progress: the people's daily life has been improved, social activities have been strengthened, party organizations have been consolidated, and internal unity has been enhanced, while the politicosocial situation has been stabilized.

The congress also raised and discussed measures to overcome shortcomings and weaknesses that have affected the advance of the revolutionary undertaking. The congress debated and defined the orientations, tasks, and major targets for the province during the 1991-95 five-year period. These include efforts to maintain politico-economic stabilization and development, the renovation of the economic structure, the continued perfecting of the management mechanism, the speedy development of the multisectoral economy, the gradual stabilization and improvement of the people's daily life, and the fight against negativism and social unjustice, thereby creating favorable conditions for the pace of development during the subsequent period of the late 90's.

The congress emphasized the province's determination to satisfactorily implement the three major economic programs, to accelerate the production of agricultural and consumer goods, to increase the value of exports, and to promote the accumulation of grain in various localities. In the next five years, the province's annual increase rate of grain production will be three percent, or a production output of 950,000 tonnes by 1995. The total agricultural production output will increase by 7-8 percent annually, while the value of exports in 1995 will be $35 million. The population growth will decrease to 1.9 percent.

Addressing the congress, Comrade Dao Duy Tung welcomed the efforts, progress, and results achieved by the province during the past five years. These results have encouraged more efforts to creatively implement the Seventh CPV Congress resolution on renovation, causing it to further advance. He urged the provincial party organization to continue to strengthen and consolidate unity among party members so as to satisfactorily implement the revolutionary undertaking in the new situation.

The congress elected a 50-member provincial party organization executive committee for the 1991-95 term. Comrade Le Van Tu, member of the CPV Central Committee, was elected secretary of the provincial party committee.

Radio Views 'Important' Role of Intellectuals

BK2909113091 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 27 Sep 91

[From "Talk of the Week" feature]

[Text] It is not without reason that over a few days in mid-September, the new party leader, Mr. Do Muoi, met with representatives of intellectuals in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City. These cities are Vietnam's two major political, economic, and cultural centers, each with a contingent of outstanding Vietnamese intellectuals.

In the cause of the Vietnamese Revolution, the Vietnamese Communist Party always considers intellectuals part of the crowd contributing to the building and defense of the country. The recent seventh national party congress pointed to the role of building a socialist state which is by the people and for the people, picking as its basis the alliance between the workers, the peasants, and the intellectuals under the leadership of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV].

The CPV states that in the national democratic revolution, the role of the intellectuals was very important. In the building of socialism, their role is all the more important. Workers and peasants must be complemented by the intellectuals if they are to improve their knowledge. Without intellectuals, the building of socialism is out of the question.

The intellectuals have been assuming an increasingly important role. Vietnam hopes that the contingent of 300,000 well-trained intellectuals will play an active role in the cause of national defense and socialist construction.

It is interesting to note that however difficult their circumstances, the intellectuals, like others, always rise to meet them and contribute their great measures to the common cause. They have been active in formulating policies on the building of socialism. Many of these intellectuals are not party members but they are devoted politically and professionally to the communist ideals.

Speaking with the intellectuals of Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, the party leader highly appreciated their contributions to the Vietnamese Revolution and expressed sympathy with the problems of life they are facing. He said: The party and state will listen attentively to every one of your suggestions, whether you are a member of the party or not. With a whole field of divergence of views during discussions, it is essential to give full scope to democratic discussions. With a full development of the intellect of the whole nation, I believe we shall overcome all difficulties and obstacles to achieve stability and move forward.

Relations Among Party, People, State Discussed

BK2809140191 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 9 Sep 91, p 3

[Article: "Some Issues on the Relations Among the Party Leadership, the People's Mastery and the State Management" by Vu Oanh, Member of Party Central Committee Political Bureau]

[Text] The Seventh Party Congress recently clearly indicated the overall duty of all party members and people is to accelerate comprehensively the renovation process and advance the country to socialism. Although we have scored very important achievements in many aspects, the renovation process is still a very profound and broad revolution rife with difficult and complex problems. (The economic crisis in socialist countries has exerted and is exerting a negative impact on our society. Imperialism and reactionary forces have devised many deceitful plots and maneuvers to attract our people and divide our people from the party). As a result, the renovation process can succeed only when our party can bring into play the strength of the people's mastery over their country and their own life, muster all material potentials, crystallize all the intellectual values of the people, create fundamental socioeconomic changes, and firmly maintain the political security in the country. Our party has much experience in the mass motivation task. However, in shifting to a new stage, it has not adopted timely viewpoints on the operational scope and method, and has somewhat fumbled in the implementation of the task that has been neglected by many echelons and sectors. Bureaucratism, authoritarianism, staying aloft from the masses and some other negative manifestations, especially corruption and oppression of the masses by some cadres and personnel in the party and administration machinery and mass organizations are quite serious. They have weakened the relationship between the party and the people. This requires our party to really concern itself with renovating the mass motivation task and resolutely overcoming bureaucratism and other negative manifestations. Our party's great responsibility is to consolidate and tighten its relationship with the people, stir up the strength of the people's mastery and overcome by all means the current difficult socioeconomic situation. In such a setting it is extremely important to intensify the party's mass motivation task.

The urgency of this task is manifested by the need to step up the mass movement to implement the pressing tasks which are aimed at improving the political and socioeconomic situation in the country.

1. The first major issue to be raised is to strengthen the close relationship among the party, the state, and the people. This is a matter of life-or-death of the revolution. Just as Lenin said that under the conditions of an administration, the party should guard itself against two dangers that are erroneous lines and bureaucratism that distances itself from the masses. Facts have demonstrated: Since the party led the administration, quite a number of cadres, party members, and state employees have been seriously affected with bureaucratism and authoritarianism. They have only seen their authority and not the people's role. They have looked down upon the people, have considered themselves outsiders standing above and not among the people, and have refused to be controlled by the people. We must struggle relentlessly against these erroneous perceptions and manifestations.

The party should promote the great abilities of all classes and strata of the people to create the strength of a national community in the struggle for a common cause.

At the same time, it must firmly lay the foundation of the all-people solidarity bloc which is the class of workers, laboring peasants, and socialist intellectuals. Since there still are many different classes and social strata in the society, interests also remain different. The party and state must formulate policies to fulfill the different interests of various classes and strata of the people on the basis of thoroughly understanding the viewpoint that the impetus of the mass movement is to fulfill the vital interests of the people, especially the laboring people, to harmoniously combine all interests and unify citizens' benefits and duties.

The party-people relationship is the two-way relationship within a unified body which is manifested by the fact that the party is both the leader and loyal servant of the people. The party trusts and relies on the people, and consciously organizes and leads the people's struggle for their own interests. The people-party relationship is manifested by the fact that the people believe in the party, voluntarily follow the party, consciously implement the party lines and policies, and actively participate in building and defending the party.

2. We must thoroughly understand and unify our knowledge about the mechanism of party leadership, people's mastery, and state management.

a. Party leadership: First of all, we should firmly grasp the fundamental viewpoint—the people's right to mastery and their intelligence, ability, and creativity play a decisive role. The people master the revolution and create history. Historical experience gained from the struggle for national independence and in building and defending the socialist homeland has clearly indicated: To make our renovation a success, the people must be armed with a vanguard theory that is Marxism-Leninism and Ho Chi Minh's thought and be placed under the leadership of the working class party that must work out correct lines and strategies and effectively organize their implementation. The people want party leadership but demand that the party be composed of people who are truly devoted to the common cause and have wisdom and ability. Particularly at this historical juncture when our economy is still backward, the enemy has devised many plots to oppose and attack us from both inside and outside. As a result, the people badly need party leadership. The party must raise its capacity and strengthen its determination and arm itself with the new thinking to meet the needs of our time and the people's aspiration. The party must see all its responsibility for leading the people to build a prosperous and strong country and to advance toward socialism. The party must therefore be built really strong and be reorganized in a truly wholesome manner to enhance the militancy of its members. Weak party bases must be improved and consolidated to be sufficiently capable of satisfactorily implementing the task of motivating the people.

We must intensify leadership over the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union in accordance with Resolution 25 of the Political Bureau (sixth tenure). Party committee echelons should help the union enhance the quality of its members and cadres, and satisfactorily promote the union's role in various youth movements and in taking charge of the Pioneer Ho Chi Minh Teenagers Unit.

The leadership method of party organizations and committees must be renovated in the direction of having party organizations assume leadership, implement the party's general lines, set guidelines for all fields of social activities, motivate and organize the people, and take the lead in the struggle for successfully implementing the party's guidelines and policies. The party's lines, orientations, and policies must be the crystallization of the wisdom of the entire people and respond to the people's desire. It must regularly gather the people's opinions to improve and perfect its policies. Party leadership over the people and society is exercised through party members trusted by the people with the task of managing the state and society. Party members must be truly competent, equal to their tasks and assignments, maintain close relations with the people and care for the people's interests. The party performs its control task also through its members who are recognized and respected by the people. The party leads through its effective activities and its specific members who bring about benefits for the people. Leaders of party organizations must be trusted by party members and the people. Only in this way can the people believe in the party. Party leadership over the building of cadre contingents and over personnel affairs must also be exercised in a truly democratic method. Suitable forms should be used to solicit the people's views and evaluate cadres objectively and correctly. A cadre selection system should be implemented step by step and on an experimental basis to recommend cadres for selection and appointment to ensure that cadres are capable of performing their assigned tasks well. As for cadres elected by the people, election criteria must also include a sense of service to the people and necessary knowledge and ability to assume the duties and responsibilities once elected. Systems and policies toward cadres must be renovated and aimed at stabilizing their livelihood and enabling cadres to devote all their effort to serve the party and people.

Since the party led the people to win over the administration, it should attentively lead the people to build the administration and develop its machinery. The party can be strong and closely related to the people only when the administration is strong, truly of the people, and closely attached to the people. Through the various agencies of the party-led administration, the party's lines and policies can be institutionalized, legalized, and materialized into those of the state to guide the action of the entire people and society. The forces and strength to implement the party's lines and policies can thus be multiplied manyfold. The high practical results of operation and management by various agencies of the administration at all levels are also essential conditions for the party to develop and perfect its lines, policies and leadership and for the people to achieve success.

b. Second issue: How do the people exercise their mastery?

The people exercise their mastery by trying to become masters of their entire country. In the past, when the enemy invaded our country, the entire people stood up to fight and drive them out, contributing everything to the front to regain national independence. Likewise, today, in the socioeconomic construction, to build the country and improve the living standards is also the task of the entire people.

The people's mastery must be effected in questions related to the whole community and the destiny of the whole nation now and for the future. The people must exercise their mastery over the issues of building and implementing lines, positions and policies, and all questions related to the community. The party must lead the people to become masters of the entire society. The party must be a strong and firm organization able to set forth correct lines and policies to deal with the problems of national welfare and the people's livelihood. The people must participate in building the party politically, ideologically and organizationally. It must make it wholesome, strong, a true vanguard unit of the working class, and a leading force of the nation meriting the people's confidence. Our people with their very high political sense will not accept a deterioration of the party and a degeneration of cadres and party members. They expect party members to be exemplary pinoneers. To make the people become the master of the whole society, the party and people must also care for and consolidate the administration at all levels to make it an administration of the people, by the people and for the people. The administration is an instrument of crucial importance for translating the party lines and policies into realities. It is also vital in transforming the people's mastery into organizational strength which individuals cannot possess into the power of the people serving their own interests. Moreover, the people's mastery is further manifested through their daily activities in productive and effective labor. In exercising mastery each citizen, family and labor collective must be active and creative in solving his or her material and moral problems. They must also help solve the country's survival problems. To speak of mastery is to speak of benefits and duties. Benefits go along with responsibilities. Citizens must fulfill their duties and responsibilities to the country. Collectivized mastery comes from individuals who know how to exercise this mastery, which means that every citizen is enlightened by the revolution, receives advanced cultural and professional knowledge, and has his rights, duties and responsibilities to the country stipulated and protected by law. For people to exercise their mastery, rights, their livelihood and intellectual standards must be raised. Socialist democracy is manifested in three aspects: "Guaranteed civil rights, improved livelihood and a higher intellectual standard". These three aspects are the conditions and premises of democracy and, at the same time, a gauge of the people's right to mastery.

With respect to civil rights, the state and law must guarantee all aspects of ownership for citizens, regarding human rights and citizen's rights as sacred and inviolable. In our society, there are still violations in this area. We should fully institutionalize and strictly observe these rights.

Improving the people's well-being means improving their material and cultural lives so they have the means to improve the democratic system. We will not be able to develop human rights if our economy is backward and our people are poor. Uncle Ho once said: "If the people continue to die from hunger and cold, then all the independence and freedom we have regained so far would become meaningless." Therefore, it is important to ensure that there is enough employment for the people. We should work productively and efficiently to make the people prosperous and the country powerful.

Improving the people's knowledge is an urgent prequisite of democracy. Only when one is aware of his right and essence of mastery and his ability to exercise this right can he become a real master. To build a powerful country, we need a highly educated population and a large contingent of talented workers. Intelligence is a driving force and also a valuable means to achieve socioeconomic development and perfect the democratic system. We should devise a policy to turn out talented people and raise the people's educational level. In turning out talented people, our state should continue to adjust our educational reforms to suit both the people at large and those with a high education background. It is necessary to build a contingent of competent and creative workers who are knowledgable and skilful, be armed with revolutionary ethics, who love the country and socialism, and has the ability to find employment in the commodity-based multisectoral economy.

The people's system of mastery at various establishments and labor collectives should be institutionalized by the state. Establishments should institutionalize this into statutes for discussion and democratic decision by the people, cadres, and government officials. The idea of "the people knowing, the people discussing, and the people supervising" is a people's system of self-management at the grass roots which should be turned into a daily routine in our society. In production, the system of having contract production for end-products is an effective measure against the bureaucracy. At the same time, it is also instrumental in developing the laboring people's right to mastery to the fullest. Workers, in this sense, can choose how to implement contract production and should take full responsibility for the results. It is necessary to consider widening the contract-production in industry at pre-set prices to various factories. This is to keep them informed of the market prices so they can readjust to any price increase, improve the value of their output, and performance. It is necessary to apply the contract production system also to agriculture, in accordance with the amendments to the Resolution No.10 of the Political Bureau. This is to strictly allow peasant households (especially those in the mountain and midland regions) to manage land and forests, and to exercise their mastery over their private and commercial use of hill and forested land and the bodies of water; and to truly link labor with the means of production and the objectives of work in order to yield higher results.

New Caledonia

American Samoa Governor Makes Official Visit

BK2809060091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Noumea, Sept 28 (AFP)—Peter Coleman, the governor of American Samoa, arrived here Saturday for a three-day official visit, during which he will meet with New Caledonian officials, business representatives and local leaders.

Coleman, in his first visit to the South Pacific French territory, will hold talks with High Commissioner Alain Christnacht, as well as with Leopold Joredie and Richard Kaloi, the respective presidents of the Northern and the Loyalty Islands provinces, both of which have pro-independence majorities.

He will also meet with Francois Burck, the president of the pro- independence Caledonian Union, and Atanraoi Baiteke, the secretary-general of the South Pacific Commission.

During his stay, the American Samoan governor will visit the town of Hienghene, 200 kilometres (120 miles) from here on the east coast, where he will place a spray of flowers on the tomb of assassinated former pro-independence leader Jean-Marie Tjibaou.

He will then meet with local leaders and business representatives, as well as visiting a nickel factory.

Coleman's visit comes as part of the territory's policy of developing ties with South Pacific nations, as stipulated in the Matignon accords on its future signed by Paris and New Caledonia's the pro- and anti-independence movements.

New Zealand

Bolger Interviewed on ANZUS, U.S. Ties

BK3009123091 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0803 GMT 30 Sep 91

[From the "International Report" program]

[Text] With the changing order, there are new signs of life in the lapsed ANZUS defense treaty between Australia, New Zealand, and the United States. President Bush's decision to take American forces off nuclear alert means that U.S. Navy ships will no longer be nuclear-armed and that removes the big stumbling block between Washington and Wellington over ship visits. It is five years since the Labor Government in New Zealand banned visits by American nuclear-armed ships and as a result was forced out of the ANZUS Treaty. Now, New Zealand's National Party prime minister, Jim Bolger, who adopted the anti-ship visit policy of his predecessors, has signaled a return to the fold. But as he told Kim Hill of Radio New Zealand's MORNING REPORT, any renewed alliance was likely to be quite different to the old.

[Begin recording] [Bolger] The world that is emerging may suggest even that the ANZUS Council as it existed previously is not the structure or form that we want in the future. So, how would you say, let's work our way through that. We know the basis for the change, we know the basis on which we can build back our relationship. Our closest ally, our closest partner, of course, is Australia, we need to talk with the Australians on the whole question of ANZUS as well, and we (?may with) the other key partner in the ANZUS alliance. So, there are a number of issues to be worked through and worked through carefully and sensibly. But we are now in a position where, I am certain, we can work it through.

[Hill] So, you think that this could change, the whole basis of ANZUS could in fact make ANZUS irrelevant?

[Bolger] Well, I would not say irrelevant, but it may be that the three traditional partners of ANZUS want to look at the world in a slightly different fashion following what is now a dramatic shift in world politics. The old two-party status—the communist and the noncommunists—is to a large extent behind us. The communists have collapsed, the free world is clearly—and democracy is clearly—in ascendancy. What that means in terms of the relationship betwen New Zealand and the rest of the world, New Zealand and United States and Australia as traditional allies and partners under the ANZUS alliance, all of these things have to be talked about or worked through. It may be that in the end we decide very clearly that the traditional tripartite relationship is the one we should go with, because it is an agreement that is under U.S. Law, and they are hard to get into U.S. Law—some defense alliances and relationships I understand are very difficult to achieve—so, maybe it is the best to work on that basis and see what else we should be doing. But clearly it will not be the same as the ANZUS Council that used to exist when there was a huge communist threat out of Europe or elsewhere.

We must continue to search for the new world of George Bush's. I mean, George Bush I think has turned out to be quite a remarkable leader. For instance, he showed the necessary strength in the Gulf crisis, he showed enormous American diplomacy to bring together a multinational force there, he is now showing the capacity to be bold in making some of the turning point decisions of the last stages of the 20th century. We should work with him.

[Hill] He seems to be a fairly sort of upfront character, did he say anything to you like: well, this move should make things easier between our two countries, when you spoke on the phone?

[Bolger] Yes he did. Yes, he said: Look, I hope, words to the effect, I hope that helps, you know.

[Hill] Is he a nice man?

[Bolger] Well, yes, he is. George Bush is a very easy person to talk to, and I would imagine most people will find very easy to get on with.

[Hill] Is he going to come here when he visits Australia in November?

[Bolger] I said to the president on the phone that if he finds the time and it is appropriate for him, then we would be delighted for him to visit New Zealand whenever it was possible. George Bush is a very keen trout fisherman and I also said there were pretty good trout down here, if he would like to try his hand with them. But, we had a light concluding comments in our phone discussion. I said to him, look, whenever you find it appropriate or possible we will be delighted to have you here. I did not link it specifically to the proposed trip to Australia. That is entirely up to him. [end recording]

Nuclear Arms, Power Considered Separate Issues

BK0110035491 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] A senior American official says the weekend announcement by President Bush to reduce nuclear weapons does not mean the end of a policy which has been a factor in strained ties with New Zealand. The undersecretary of defense, Paul Wolfowitz, was referring to the policy of neither confirming nor denying the presence of nuclear weapons on American planes or warships. Rather, he added, that nuclear cuts created a new situation which had implications for relations with New Zealand and some other countries.

New Zealand disarmament and arms control minister, Doug Graham, says New Zealand officials in Washington will be holding discussions with American officials to determine what effect President Bush's initiative will have.

He says his government considers nuclear arms and nuclear power separate issues and could consider legislation to accommodate nuclear-powered vessels.

Washington broke off military cooperation with New Zealand in 1986 in protest at legislation adopted banning visits by nucelar-armed or -powered ships.

Papua New Guinea

Developments in 'Constitutional Crisis' Reported

Diro 'Could Face' Prosecution

BK2809074291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 28 Sep 91

[Text] Port Moresby, Sept 28 (AFP) - Disgraced Papua New Guinea politician Ted Diro could face criminal prosecution after a leadership tribunal found him guilty of misconduct in office.

Public Prosecutor Kina Bona said here Saturday his office was studying the tribunal's findings to determine whether criminal charges could be laid against the suspended deputy prime minister.

Bona's statement comes as the country faces its first constitutional crisis in 16 years of independence following Governor General Sir Serei Eri's refusal to ratify the tribunal's recommendation to dismiss Diro on 70 counts of misconduct.

Eri is founding president of the People's Action party (PAP) of which Diro is parliamentary leader.

The next move would be for the executive arm of government, the National Executive Council of Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu, to suspend Eri. Only parliament can sack the governor-general.

But, as was discovered in Australia in 1975, a governor-general can also sack a government.

The National Broadcasting Commission today quoted a letter by Eri to the tribunal in which he said he did not agree with the verdict of dismissal.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu, who was visiting the eastern city of Lae Saturday, has so far not commented on the issue.

It is understood Namaliu and several senior ministers have met with the governor-general and senior PAP ministers to try to find a solution.

Namaliu is expected to make a formal statement in the next two days.

Senior politicians Saturday expressed concern at developments. Deputy opposition leader, Sir Julius Chan, a former prime minister, said he hoped the governor-general would sign Diro's dismissal to avoid a crisis. "He has no option now, he must sign," he said.

Diro himself has described the tribunal's decision as "highly controversial" but "not unexpected".

Governor General Reinstates Diro

BK2909090091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 29 Sep 91

[By Wally Hiambohn]

[Text] Port Moresby, Sept 29 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea [PNG] was thrown into its biggest political and constitutional crisis Sunday when Governor-General Sir Serei Eri reinstated Ted Diro as deputy prime minister instead of sacking him for misconduct.

Many observers now expect a strong community backlash, with opposition National Party leader Michael Mel predicting "chaos in the streets. Now we have proven that there is one law for the big men and another for the little people. We might as well open the prison gates now."

Even Diro, who admitted in an interview with AFP to have "prayed long and hard about my sins," confided that he expected controversy and was prepared to face it.

"I do not expect the decision to go unnoticed but I will address the issues when they arise," he said.

"I strongly and genuinely believe PNG can benefit from my experience and hard work in the critical years ahead," he added.

Diro described the governor-general as "one of the most ethical and straight-talking leaders we have in the country. He is a man of impeccable integrity, a man of great compassion and a man who believes strongly in the interest of the nation."

Sources in the ruling Pangu coalition say Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu and his cabinet now have no option but to discipline Eri, which could further deepen the crisis. The most probable course, they say, is suspension of the governor-general and subsequent dismissal by parliament.

Namaliu was still not available for comment Sunday, but his office said he was seeking legal advice and would either release a statement, hold a press conference or make an address to the nation.

A leadership tribunal last Friday found Diro guilty of 70 charges of official misconduct for which it recommended his dismissal and fined him a total of 3,300 U.S. dollars on 11 others.

Diro said he welcomed Eri's decision, saying the governor-general had acted in the "interest of the nation."

Eri is a staunch supporter of Diro as well as founding president of the People's Action Party (PAP), of which Diro is parliamentary leader. The PAP is a junior partner in the Pangu-led coalition.

In an official letter to Diro, Eri said he rejected the recommendation for dismissal but accepted the fine. He directed Diro to pay the fine and said he was reinstating him as deputy prime minister, the position from which Diro was suspended when the leadership tribunal was set up in April.

Eri's letter said: "You are hereby reinstated with full responsibilities to your duties as deputy prime minister of Papua New Guinea, minister for public service, and member for Central Province, upon receipt of this instrument."

In his response to the governor-general, Diro enclosed a cheque for the fine and wrote: "I have recommenced duties in accordance with your direction."

Diro told AFP later that the decision was in the interests of the nation and that he would get on with the task of helping develop the country.

"After I reflected on the mistakes of all the leaders and sometimes political practises in this country, I have come to the conclusion that my reinstatement is the national interest," he said.

"At this stage I do not know what the views of the prime minister are but I will consider his views when I meet up with him to discuss the issue of reappointment. If the prime minister says otherwise of my reappointment, then that's his prerogative.

"My guiding interest is what I can do for PNG and that has made me struggle against the most difficult odds," he said.

"I did not expect the tribunal to be less severe because of my decision not to provide any defence at all against the charges," Diro added.

Namaliu Accuses Governor General

BK0110043691 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0300 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Rabbie Namaliu, has accused the governor general of acting illegally in his attempts to prevent the dismissal of the deputy prime minister, Ted Diro, over corruption convictions.

Marios Benson in Port Moresby reports the prime minister's attack is the most serious so far directed at the governor general over the constitutional crisis:

[Begin Benson recording] In a written statement the prime minister says the governor general, Sir Serei Eri, has broken the law by attempting to interfere in the operation of the Leadership Tribunal which last week convicted Ted Diro on 81 corruption charges.

Mr. Namaliu says Sir Serei acted illegally by twice writing to the chief justice in an attempt to stop or affect the tribunal. The prime minister says those letters constitute an abuse of office, raise the issue of contempt of court, and could in fact be illegal.

The prime minister's criticism has come as a government emissary is making his way from Port Moresby to London where he is expected to deliver advice to the queen calling for the removal of Sir Serei Eri from office. [end recording]

Governor General Eri Resigns

BK0110082191 Hong Kong AFP in English 0804 GMT 1 Oct 91

[Text] Port Moresby, Oct 1 (AFP)—Papua New Guinea's Governor General Sir Serei Eri has resigned "in the best interests of the country," Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu announced here Tuesday.

The resignation followed a decision by the Namaliu government to ask Britain's Queen Elizabeth II to sack 54-year-old Eri for refusing to dismiss Deputy Prime Minister Ted Diro for corruption.

Dismissal had been recommended last week by a leadership tribunal which found him guilty of 81 corruption charges last week.

The recommendation was that he be dismissed not just from the cabinet, but from his parliamentary seat and banned from holding public office for three years.

Only the governor-general was constitutionally empowered to dismiss a politician from his seat and impose such a ban.

But instead of sacking Diro, Eri provoked the constitutional crisis by reinstating him at the weekend to the deputy prime ministership from which he had been suspended when he was originally charged.

The cabinet decided Monday to send an envoy to Buckingham Palace to ask the queen to dismiss Eri. A letter requesting the dismissal was being personally delivered by cabinet secretary Peter Eka, who left for London immediately.

Papua New Guinea, a member of the Commonwealth of Nations, recognises the queen as its head of state represented by the governor general.

A new governor-general will be appointed as soon as the government can find a suitable candidate.

It is understood Diro cannot be sacked until a document removing him from public office is signed by Eri's successor.

In reality his ministerial duties were terminated when he was suspended earlier this year and, although a letter by Eri purported to reinstate him, he is not expected to resume ministerial duties.

Eri, a former teacher, writer and diplomat, was appointed to the position in January last year.

The prime minister told a news conference Eri had tendered his resignation in the morning and the cabinet decided at a brief meeting to accept it.

"No doubt Sir Serai has made the decision in the best interest of the country and its people and the stability of the government," Namaliu added.

He said he commended him for "a courageous decision."

The resignation also followed a charge by Namaliu Tuesday morning that Eri illegally tried to interfere in the proceedings of the tribunal.

The resignation brought to a tidy end the country's worst political crisis and the first constitutional crisis in the 16 years since it achieved independence as a British colony administered by Australia.

The crisis appeared to deepen Tuesday because of the latest accusation against Eri by Namaliu.

Namaliu said that apart from breaching the Constitution by refusing to dismiss Diro, Eri had placed himself in a more serious position by twice writing to the chief justice, Sir Buri Kidu, about the tribunal and its proceedings.

"These letters clearly not only constitute an abuse of the office of governor general, they also raise the issue of contempt of court," Namaliu said.

"Under our Constitution, the judiciary has guaranteed protection against any influence or attempt at influence, by anyone," he said.

"As I have already made clear personally to the governor-general, his action in seeking to interfere in the leadership tribunal is a very serious breach of the duty, and, in fact an illegal action," Namaliu added.

Government officials said here that Namaliu's cabinet considered both the attempt to influence the court and the refusal to dismiss Diro when it met Monday.

A cabinet submission by Attorney-General Bernard Narokobi, which was obtained by AFP, confirms both issues were discussed.

Solomon Islands

Australia's Air Force Chief on Defense Program

BK2709100991 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Australia's Air Force chief, Air Marshal Ray Funnell, says the success of Australia's joint defense cooperation program with Solomon Islands could become a model in other Pacific countries.

Air Marshal Funnell was speaking in Honiara after a one-day visit during which he held discussions with the government on defense cooperation, surveillance, and aviation issues.

Air Marshal Funnell said two of the most successful projects under the defense cooperation program were a bomb disposal project and the establishment of a police communications network linking police stations in Solomon Islands.

The Australian Air Force chief, who arrived from Papua New Guinea, has now left Honiara for Vanuatu to continue his familiarization tour of the region.

Western Samoa

PRC Pledges Cooperation at Ceremony 26 Sep

BK2709101791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0952 GMT 27 Sep 91

[Text] Apia, Sept 26 (AFP)—China and Western Samoa pledged closer cooperation during a ground-breaking ceremony here Thursday to start construction on a 20 million tala (9 million U.S.) office complex.

Chinese Ambassador Yue Junqung said the six-storey complex for the government would be a symbol of cooperation and friendship. He said China was willing to undertake economic and technical cooperation with "friendly countries" in the South Pacific.

Prime Minister Tofilau Eti Alesana said the project was originally for a smaller building costing 2 million tala (900,000 U.S.) but then China pledged more money, and even this may not be enough.

The complex, due for completion in September 1993, will have a total area of 12,578 square metres (15,000 square yards). Up to 150 Chinese technicians will work on the complex.